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Royal Mail tributes to British Humanitarians and Shakespeare

Age of the Zeppelin

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Office romance

Britain's most quirky, least likely post offices

- **Football as a theme for GB collectors**
- **Global guide to the latest issues**
- **Gems from the world's big auctions**

Genius of Hans Erni

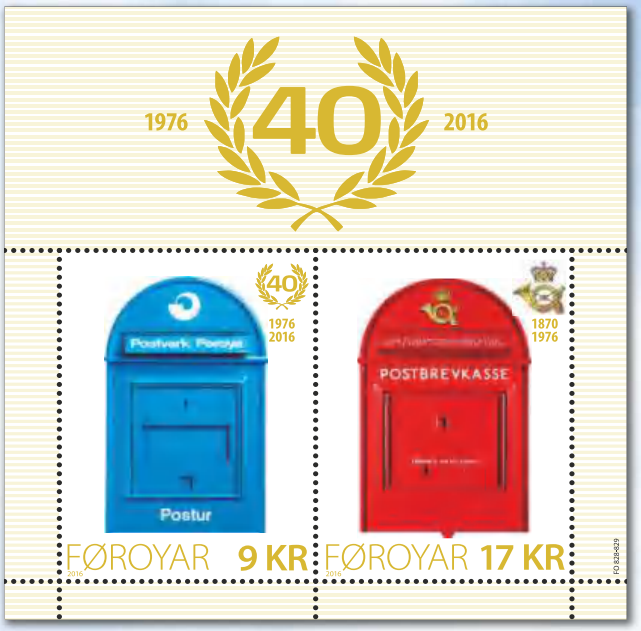
Top 10 stunning works of art from the Swiss master's 60-year career in stamps

Faroe Islands Stamps

New Stamp Issues April and May 2016

01.04.2016
40th Anniversary of Postverk Føroya - the Faroese Postal Service

On April 1st 1976 the Danish postal services in the Faroe Islands were formally taken over by the Faroese government. The mini-sheet illustrates the red Danish postbox (17KR) which was replaced by the new blue Postverk Føroya postbox (9KR) in 1976.



09.05.2016
EUROPA 2016: THINK GREEN

The 9KR Europa stamp is designed by Faroese artist, Edward Fuglø, and illustrates a hypnosis circle which should encourage us to think more about the environment. The 17KR stamp is the winning design in PostEurop's design contest designed by Doxias Sergidou from Cyprus.

26.04.2016
Nordic issue 2016: Faroese Food culture

This issue depicts some of the traditional Faroese specialties which are stored in the so-called "hjallur". This is the Faroese variant of the pantry, a drying shed ventilated by the wind all year round. The shed serves both as cold storage and a setting for various forms of food preservation.

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WELCOME

It wasn't the most enticing junket I've ever been invited to. To paraphrase: 'Join us at a construction site under an old industrial building, at a ridiculously early hour in the morning. Wear sensible shoes. You can watch a television presenter try to make a dent in a wall using a sledgehammer. You might get a coffee if you're lucky.'

I knew, however, that this was likely to be the most significant philatelic press launch of the year, so I understood that it was worth getting up early for. Even though early meant 5.45am. Grunt!

The old industrial building was Royal Mail's Mount Pleasant sorting office in London. The construction site comprised the platforms and engineering works of Mail Rail, the underground line which used to transport letters and packages between the capital's sorting offices and railway termini. The occasion was the official launch of The Postal Museum.

We've been waiting 18 long years for the rebirth of a national postal museum in Britain, and during that time there have been several false dawns. But this is the real McCoy, and we can begin to feel confident that it was worth waiting for.

Above ground there is not much to see, with the main building still being gutted. Below ground there isn't much to see either, to be honest, but you can let your imagination run away with you. The combination of a visual display with a passenger ride is the kind of three-dimensional experience every visitor attraction needs these days, and the Postal Museum will have just that. Worth getting up early for!

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Or a copy of our GB price guide!
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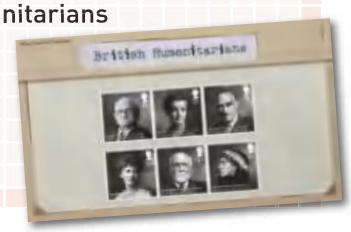

'It is the fate of every collector to have an unrequited passion for stamps which are out of reach'

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United Nations' gay equality stamps offend some member states

The United Nations has attracted controversy by issuing six stamps promoting equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people.

Although launched by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights as part of the UN's Free & Equal campaign, the issue was rebuked by several member states, led by Nigeria and Ghana.

Nigeria's ambassador to the UN, Usman Sarki, said the stamps were 'promoting aberrant behaviour under the guise of promoting human rights'.

He continued: 'We are distressed and alarmed that the UN has adopted an activist stance on a matter that does not enjoy consensus, or, for that matter, majority support, among member states.'

In response the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, said: 'The Universal Declaration of Human Rights promises a world in which everyone is born free and equal in dignity and rights: no exceptions, no-one left behind. Yet it's still a hollow promise for many millions of LGBT people forced to confront hatred, intolerance, violence and discrimination on a daily basis.'

In almost half of the UN's member states, homosexual activity remains a criminal offence.

Designed by the Cuban artist Sergio Baradat, in French Art Deco style, the set was issued on February 5 for use at the UN Headquarters in New York, Geneva and Vienna.

It features two stamps denominated in US dollars and inscribed in English, two denominated in Swiss francs and inscribed in French, and two denominated in euros and inscribed in German.

Highest-value postage stamp in US history

The United States has produced its first postage stamp with a denomination exceeding $20, in the shape of the priority express $22.95 value issued in January.

The self-adhesive, depicting the Columbia River Gorge, is the latest in the American Landmarks series of high values, which began in 2008 with a $4.80 showing Mount Rushmore and a $16.50 showing the Hoover Dam.

The series now extends to 16 designs, each meeting priority or express mail rates which were in effect at the time of issue, although some of these are now redundant.

Ireland definitives mark centenary of Easter Rising

Ireland has issued a set of 16 definitive stamp designs marking the centenary of the 1916 Easter Rising against British rule.

The stamps will be available from post offices for the rest of the year as machine-vended self-adhesives ('stamps on a roll') and from the philatelic service in special souvenir packs.

The designs are grouped into four categories, intended to reflect a chronological narrative: Leaders & Icons, Participants, Easter Week and The Aftermath. Many show key personalities, such as Patrick Pearse and Roger Casement, while others depict the proclamation of a republic and the General Post Office, which was at the centre of the uprising.

A special feature of the set is the use of augmented reality (AR) technology, so that scanning them with a smartphone app links users to An Post's new GPO Witness History visitor centre.

There are also booklets and coils of 70c and €1.05 stamps using some of the same designs but in a different format.

Jersey set celebrates George V portraiture

Portraits of King George V are the focus of a new stamp issue released by Jersey on March 9.

The second issue in a series exploring the royal legacy of Queen Victoria, the six stamps and a miniature sheet all feature paintings or drawings from the National Portrait Gallery in London.

The King, who was Queen Victoria's second-eldest grandson, came to the throne in 1910 and reigned for 25 years, changing the dynastic name from Saxe-Coburg-Gotha to Windsor during World War I.

He built up the Royal Philatelic Collection into the world's most comprehensive collection of Great Britain and the Commonwealth, and was only the second reigning monarch to pay an official royal visit to Jersey, in 1921.

The portraits were made in 1911, 1914, 1922, 1926, 1933 and 1934, with the miniature sheet using an expanded version of the 1934 painting. The stamps were printed by Enchedé.

Isle of Man stamps omit Queen's head

Two of the stamps in a sheetlet issued by the Isle of Man featuring works by the locally-born artist Bryan Kneale have the Queen's silhouette portrait omitted.

A 44p design reproducing Kneale's 1985 illustration of a horse appears three times in the sheetlet of 30, all in the furthest right column. Two of these three stamps lack the silhouette, which means that the correctly printed stamp is less common than the error.

The fault was not spotted until some months after the issue was released in October 2015.

NEWS IN BRIEF

> The Federation of European Philatelic Associations (FEPA) has honoured the late Francis Kiddle with the posthumous award of the FEPA Medal for Exceptional Service to Organised Philately.

> The Association of British Philatelic Societies has published its 2016 Handbook & Directory, with details of local and specialist societies, regional federations, philatelic speakers, events and other information. It is priced £10. E-mail: communications@abps.org.uk

> Howard Koslow, who designed many stamps for the United States over four decades, including popular series depicting musicians and lighthouses, has died at the age of 91.

> Jersey's new series of Post & Go stamps illustrate the Crest of Jersey in a range of colours. A '500 Years of Postal History' inscription was available from the vending machine at Spring Stampex.

> The Stockholmia 2019 international philatelic exhibition in Sweden will host a celebration marking the 150th anniversary of the Royal Philatelic Society London.

> The exhibition frames for the New York 2016 World Stamp Show in May are constructed of polystyrene, making them half the weight of normal frames.

> Approvals dealer Michael G Read has confirmed the purchase of the Lancaster Auction Agency. Visit www.lancaster auction agency.com

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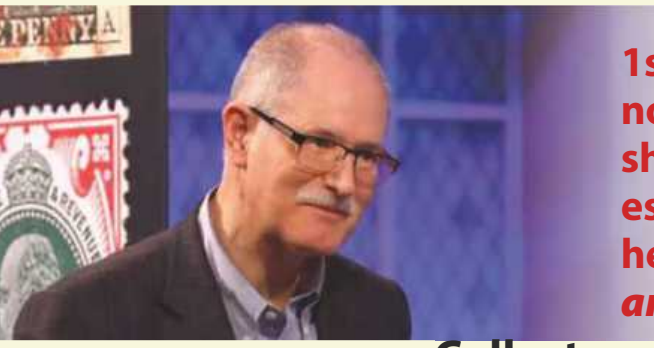

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When I was in my teens I attended my 1st auction which, frankly, I found intimidating – now, a few years (!) further on, with so few stamp shops, buying stamps at auction has become an essential tool of the collector's armoury … so here are a few tips of what to look for …
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Edited by Adrian Keppel. Prices quoted exclude buyer's premiums

UNITED STATES 1851
Rare variety of the 1c on cover

Daniel F Kelleher's latest auction included a rare cover bearing a strip of three of the 1c blue from the United States second issue of 1851, one of which is a rare subtype.

Distinguishing the many subtypes in this imperforate issue depends on scrutiny of the ornamentation at the top and bottom of the design, often hampered by the way they were carelessly cut from sheets.

In this case, however, the large bottom margins mean that one stamp can be identified as the very rare type I, which comes only from one position on the right pane of the early state of plate 1.

The other two, on a cover addressed from Maryland to Ohio, are type Ib.

SOLD BY KELLEHER £32,967

SOMALILAND PROTECTORATE 1938
Perforation error on top 5r value

Murray Payne's latest sale of British Commonwealth material from the reign of King George VI included a major rarity from the Somaliland Protectorate.

It was an unmounted mint strip of four of the top value from the 1938 definitive series, the 5r black, with the central two stamps imperforate between. Only six such strips are known to exist.

The map design was used for the four highest values in a set of 12, recess-printed by Waterlow.

SOLD BY MURRAY PAYNE £31,000

CANADA 1908
Largest block of the 50c

Brigham Auctions sold this unique exhibition piece of Canada, the largest known block of the 1903-12 King Edward VII 50c deep violet.

The upper pane of 40 includes the 'Ottawa No1' inscription in the top margin, and the stamps are unhinged and in fine to very fine condition.

This block was part of the 'Port Maitland find', which came to light when a family from the town took four complete sheets of the 50c to a dealer in Toronto in the 1950s. They were broken up into blocks, of which this is the largest.

This was the top value in a set of seven recess-printed by the American Bank Note Co in Ottawa.

SOLD BY BRIGHAM £21,334

BERMUDA 1863
Unique datestamp on cover

The only known cover with the 'Paid at Ireland Island/Bermuda' circular datestamp came up in Spink's general sale.

The underpaid mourning cover, sent to New Brunswick in January 1863, also has the latest recorded use of the locally made '6d' handstamp. Both were struck in red ink.

SOLD BY SPINK £14,000

SERBIA 1941
Missing burelage error

Soler y Llach's all-world sale offered an error from the German occupation of Serbia in World War II, a strip of five of the 1941 Prisoners of War Fund 4d+12d charity stamp with missing burelage.

The set of four values was printed in panes of 25 (5x5), partly printed with a coloured burelage and a large double-lined Cyrillic symbol to give the effect of the Serbian cross.

This strip comes from the only pane of the 4d+12d which has been discovered with the burelage missing, so it contains two of only four known stamps with the Cyrillic symbol (in red) but no burelage.

SOLD BY SOLER Y LLACH £5,916

BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA 1895
£25 top value

The British Central Africa £25 black and blue-green which came up for sale at Status International is considered to be the finest in existence.

Like many British Empire high values, this top value from the 1895 (no watermark) definitive set is rare in good condition.

Most surviving mint examples are either off-centre, regummed or reperforated.

SOLD BY STATUS INTERNATIONAL £9,721

GREAT BRITAIN 1901
Paste-up essay for the 2½d

Warwick & Warwick's sale included this paste-up essay for the 2½d value in Great Britain's King Edward VII definitive series.

The first essays for the series, made in 1901, consisted of 12 values from the existing Queen Victoria 'Jubilee' series with her portrait replaced by a lithographed three-quarters likeness of the new king, mounted on card.

A profile portrait of the king was eventually used on the issued stamps from 1902, and new designs and colours were adopted for several values, including the 2½d.

SOLD BY WARWICK & WARWICK £2,830

LIECHTENSTEIN 1929
Graf Zeppelin flight cover

Rölli-Schär's auction included this attractive Zeppelin cover posted from Liechtenstein to Switzerland via Tokyo.

Graf Zeppelin's round-the-world flight in 1929 went from Lakehurst in New Jersey to Friedrichshafen in Germany, Tokyo in Japan, Los Angeles in California and back to Lakehurst, with covers picked up and dropped off at all the stops. This one, franked with an array of Liechtenstein stamps and handstamped with the airship's 'Weltrundfahrt' cachet, was flown on the Friedrichshafen-Tokyo leg before returning to Europe by surface mail.

SOLD BY RÖLLI-SCHÄR £3,367

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Commemorative Jersey Stamps

The latest issues from Jersey Post

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II - 90th Birthday Celebration **Issue date: 21 April 2016**

Ten stamps feature nostalgic photographs of Her Majesty The Queen in each decade of her life, together with family members.

The 5th Wedding Anniversary of Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge

Issue date: 29 April 2016

Five stamps capture key milestones from each year of the Royal Couple's married life. The Miniature Sheet features a beautiful family portrait, taken by acclaimed photographer, Mario Testino OBE.

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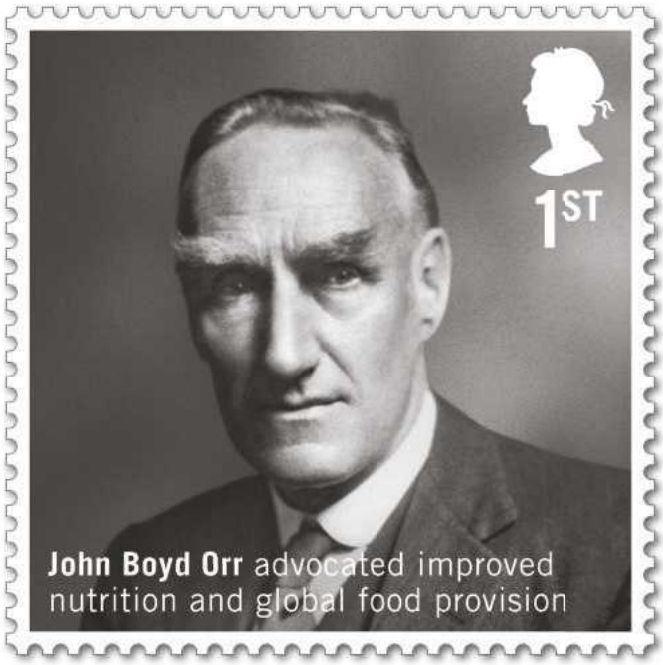
NEW ISSUE

Lives dedicated to helping other people



The British Humanitarians issue on March 15 will commemorate the lives of six individuals who devoted their energies to helping and protecting other people, both in the UK and abroad.

The three men and three women, active in the 19th and 20th centuries, shared an innate concern for their fellow human beings struggling against illness, poverty, violence or hypocrisy, and a single-minded desire to help them in practical ways.

Unusually, the issue appears to be an example of people power influencing Royal Mail's stamp programme. It was announced after more than 100,000 people supported an online petition for Nicholas Winton to be honoured, following his death last year; there is no evidence that a set such as this was already planned.

Designed by Hat-Trick, based on black-and-white photographs, the stamps are printed in litho by International Security Printers, in se-tenant strips of three.

1st class NICHOLAS WINTON

Winton (1909–2015) is credited with saving the lives of 669 mostly Jewish children from

almost certain death in Nazi concentration camps, by organising their evacuation from Czechoslovakia to Britain or Sweden in 1939, on the eve of World War II. He visited refugee camps compiling lists of eligible children, found foster parents for them and organised their safe passage across Europe on his Kindertransport trains.

1st class SUE RYDER

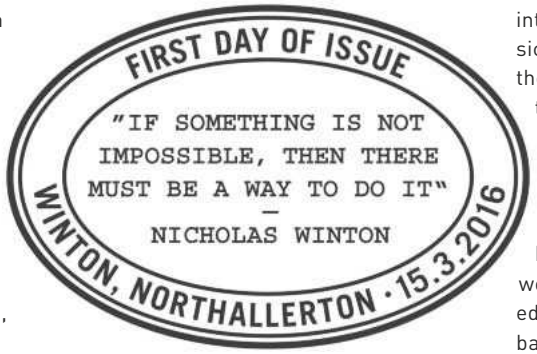
Ryder (1924–2000) volunteered as a relief worker in Europe at the end of World War II, helping refugees, orphans and concentration camp survivors, most notably in Poland. In 1953 she established the Sue Ryder Foundation, which set up more than 80 homes and hospices around the world for people with physical or mental disabilities. She was married to Leonard Cheshire, who also founded a major charity.

1st class JOHN BOYD ORR

Orr (1880–1971) advocated improved nutrition and global co-operation over food provision as means of fighting poverty and ensuring peace. In 1945 he was appointed the first Director-General of the United Nations' Food & Agriculture Organisation, and in 1946 established the International Emergency Food Council to address post-war famine. In 1949 he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to eliminate world hunger.

PRICES

Set of 6 stamps	£5.88
Presentation pack	£6.40
Stamp cards	£2.70
First day cover	£7.54



£1.33 EGLANTYNE JEBB

Jebb (1876–1928) founded the Save The Children Fund in 1919 to help relief work for German and Austrian children reduced to poverty by World War I, and later victims of the Russian famine. She drafted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, which was adopted by the League of Nations in 1924, and campaigned tirelessly for the welfare and education of children.

£1.33 JOSEPH ROWNTREE

Rowntree (1836–1925) was a businessman who ran the family confectionery firm in York, but also a philanthropist keen to improve his employees' quality of life. He introduced medical services, education, sickness benefits and pension schemes for them. In 1904, he used his personal wealth to endow three trusts to promote social reform, adult education and affordable housing for the working classes.

£1.33 JOSEPHINE BUTLER

Butler (1828–1906) campaigned for women's rights and access to higher education. She was pivotal in the successful battle to repeal the Contagious Diseases Acts, which were used to deny civil rights to women suspected of being prostitutes, and later campaigned against child prostitution and in favour of female suffrage.

OTHER PRODUCTS

The presentation pack, written by journalist Nigel Fountain, features summaries of the lives of the featured humanitarians, in a layout inspired by Nicholas Winton's scrapbook.

Stamp cards and a first day cover are also available, as usual.

VERDICT

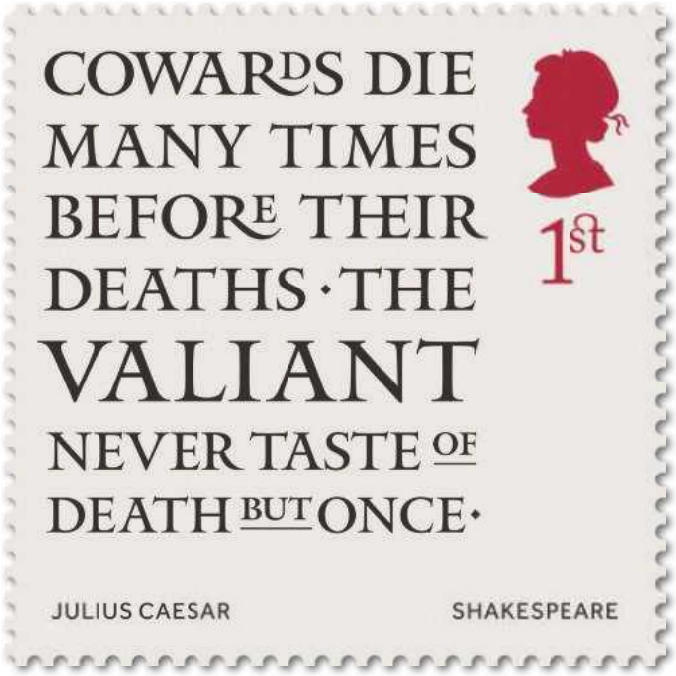
COMMEMORATIVE WORTH ★★★★★
Selfless people are more worthy than most of this kind of philatelic honour

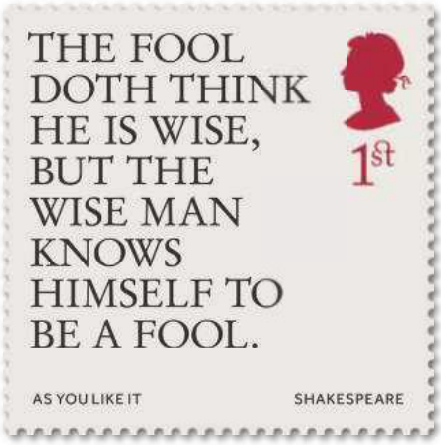
QUALITY OF DESIGN ★★★☆☆
Although based on photographs of varying quality, some of the portraits are very striking

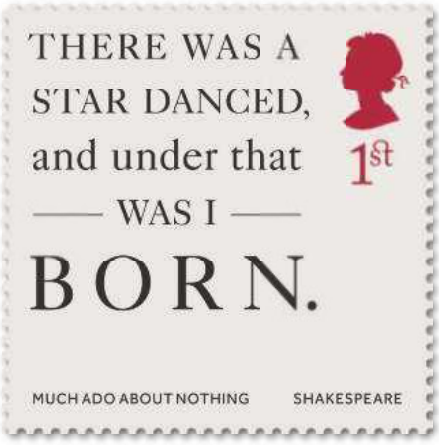
WOW FACTOR ★☆☆☆☆
The set will probably rely heavily on the Winton stamp to gain public attention

NEW ISSUE

Shakespearean verse takes centrestage







Royal Mail will issue a set of 10 stamps on April 5 to mark the 400th anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare, the most published and most performed dramatist in history.

The designs pay tribute to the genius of 'the immortal bard' by reproducing famous quotes from eight of his plays and two of his poems, in a variety of typefaces and styles.

Designed by The Chase, the stamps are printed in litho by International Security Printers, in se-tenant strips of five.

Previous sets relating to Shakespeare featured scenes from his plays (1964), illustrated the Globe Theatre in London where many were performed in his lifetime (1995), and celebrated the Royal Shakespeare Company which performs them to this day (2011); although the latter issue included quotes alongside images of actors in performance, this is the first set to focus solely on the language for which the bard is renowned.

Shakespeare died on April 23, 1616. The stamps are being released before the precise anniversary to avoid clashing with the forthcoming issue marking the Queen's 90th birthday.

1st class HAMLET

'To thine own self be true', spoken by the self-absorbed Polonius as a last piece of advice to his son Laertes, who is departing for Paris.

1st class JULIUS CAESAR

'Cowards die many times before their deaths. The valiant never taste of death but once', spoken by Caesar to his wife Calphurnia when she begs him not to venture out in public on the Ides of March due to bad omens.

1st class ROMEO & JULIET

'Love is a smoke made with the fume of sighs', spoken by Romeo to his friend Benvolio as they ruminate on how being in love can be a bittersweet experience.

1st class AS YOU LIKE IT
'The fool doth think he is wise, but the wise man knows himself to be a fool', spoken by Touchstone, the court jester, to William, his love rival, before threatening to kill him.

1st class MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING
'There was a star danced, and under that was I born', spoken by the talkative and witty Beatrice, impressing the Aragonese prince Don Pedro.

1st class SONNET 30
'But if the while I think on thee, dear friend, all losses are restored and sorrows end', written as a tribute to a deceased friend.

PRICES

Set of 10 stamps	£6.40
Presentation pack	£6.90
Stamp cards	£4.50
First day cover	£8.16
Coin cover	£28.00

1st class VENUS & ADONIS
'Love comforteth like sunshine after rain', spoken by the human Adonis comparing love with lust after being seduced by the Greek goddess Venus.

1st class THE TEMPEST
'We are such stuff as dreams are made on, and our little life is rounded with a sleep', spoken by Prospero as he ends festivities celebrating the engagement of his daughter.

1st class MACBETH
'Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player that struts and frets his hour upon the stage', spoken by Macbeth in the famous soliloquy lamenting the death of his wife.

1st class RICHARD II
'I wasted time, and now doth time waste me', spoken by King Richard II in prison after being deposed by King Henry IV.

OTHER PRODUCTS
Written by Sir Jonathan Bate, the presentation pack explores Shakespeare's personal and professional life, and the way in which his works have been published.

As an alternative to the usual first day cover, a limited-edition coin cover is available, with the Royal Mint's set of three commemorative £2 coins: one for comedies, one for tragedies and one for histories.

VERDICT

COMMEMORATIVE WORTH ★★★★★
It doesn't seem long since the last Shakespeare-related set. Nevertheless, this is a major anniversary

QUALITY OF DESIGN ★★☆☆☆
The purely typographical approach will not be to everyone's taste, yet it does force us to focus on the words

WOW FACTOR ★★☆☆☆
The stamps are eye-catching in their own way, but how many users will pause to read and consider them?

NEWS IN BRIEF

> On online gallery illustrating the history of the Valentine's Day card has been created by Royal Mail, in association with The Postal Museum. It includes rare cards and covers dating from as early as 1790, including rude messages known as 'vinegar Valentines'. Visit www.gallery.royalmailgroup.com/valentine

> The availability of a limited-edition version of the Classic GPO Posters miniature sheet at Spring Stampex created long queues at the Royal Mail stand. Sold in presentation packs at £7.95 each, the sheets were being advertised on eBay at prices between £12 and £15 the following week.

> The basic 2nd class, 1st class, 2nd Large and 1st Large postage rates will all rise by 1p on March 29, to 55p, 64p, 75p and 96p respectively. With Europe up to 20g and worldwide up to 10g airmail rates rising to £1.05, new Machin and country definitives will be issued for that value.

> Following the closure of Bletchley Park Post Office last year, its website will soon be closing too, ending more than 20 years of producing commemorative covers with links to the code-breaking centre. Visit www.bletchleycovers.com

> Slogan cancellations used by Royal Mail in February included one reading 'Send a card to someone special on February 14th' alongside heart shapes of various sizes.

Ground-breaking ceremony for new Postal Museum

The official launch of The Postal Museum on February 4 included a ground-breaking ceremony and details of what visitors can expect when it opens to the public.

In the engineering depot Mail Rail, under the sorting office at Mount Pleasant in London, historian and television presenter Dan Snow attacked an old office building with a sledgehammer, heralding the start of its transformation into a visitor attraction with a train ride and interactive exhibitions.

Just across the road and above ground, Calthorpe House is in the process of being turned into the main museum building, with five zones leading visitors through the story of the British postal service.

The first details of how the exhibition space will be arranged suggest an emphasis on innovation and ingenuity, and also on the people who have worked for the Post Office or had their lives changed by it.

The £26m project is expected to open early in 2017 and welcome 186,000 visitors in its first full year. Calthorpe House will also be the new home for the Royal Mail archive, with improved facilities for philatelic research.

EXHIBITION SPACE

■ **Zone 1: The Royal Mail**
The postal service's earliest days, horse-drawn mail coaches and the battle to defend the mail from highwaymen

■ **Zone 2: Mail for Everyone**
The Penny Black, and the postal reforms which made it affordable for everyone to communicate over long distance for the first time in history

■ **Zone 3: The Post Office in Conflict**
Postal workers who served in the Post Office Rifles regiment or braved the Blitz to keep the mail moving on the home front

■ **Zone 4: Designs on Delivery**
The avant-garde work of the Post Office marketing department in 1930s and the original plaster cast for the iconic Machin portrait of Queen Elizabeth II

■ **Zone 5: Communication & Change**
What the postal service meant to the people it served, and how it has changed over time

■ **Mail Rail**
Exploring the world's first driverless electric railway, and its role in postal service innovation

COVER OF THE MONTH

Buckingham's first day cover for the British Humanitarians issue is a tribute to Sir Nicholas Winton, and illustrates Czech children escaping the Nazi concentration camps on the Kinderstransport trains he organised.

Postmarked at Hope Square outside Liverpool Street Station in London, where many refugees arrived from Europe in 1938-39, it is priced £16.95.

Visit www.buckinghamcovers.com

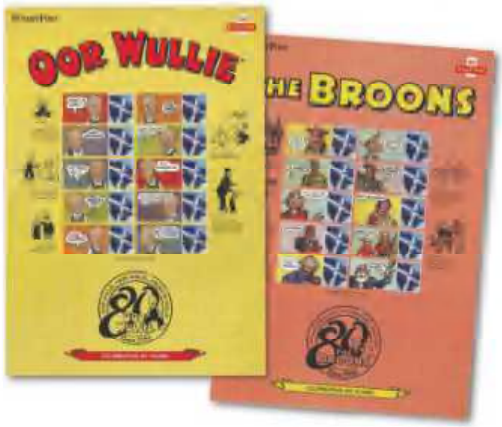
Label sheets feature Scottish cartoon strips

Royal Mail has produced self-adhesive label sheets celebrating the 80th anniversary of two popular Scottish newspaper cartoon strips, *Oor Wullie* and *The Broons*.

Originally drawn by Dudley Watkins, both strips have been published in the weekly newspaper *The Sunday Post* from 1936 to date, and the sheets have been produced in association with publishers D C Thomson.

In both cases, 10 different labels accompany 10 1st class Saltire stamps, sold in special folders with background information and further images of the comic strips. In limited editions of 10,000, issued on March 8, they are priced £14.99 each or £24.99 for the pair.

This is the third in a new style of product which Royal Mail calls a 'souvenir sheet', customised in collaboration with a commercial sponsor. The first was the Dangermouse sheet of September 2015.



Castles test printing discovered from 1963

A recent discovery of a test printing sheds new light on the printing history of the pre-decimal Castles high values.

The block of the 12 of the 2s 6d value, depicting Carrickfergus Castle, is printed in black rather than brown, on poor-quality thick paper that is unwatermarked, ungummed and imperforate.

It dates from after 1963, when the contract for printing the series was transferred from De La Rue to Bradbury Wilkinson, and the preparation of printing plates reverted from electroplating to the use of a transfer roller.

Periodically, test printings were made to ensure that the alignment was correct, and it is thought black ink was used for these as it would most readily show up any flaws.

The block, now in the hands of specialist collector Peter Shaw, shows markings for where the transfer roller was to be applied.

HOT OFF THE PRESS

Don Staddon has the inside line on British stamp printings, post office supplies and developments in postal mechanisation

DEFINITIVE SECURITY UNDERLAY

The new wavy-line security underlay on the backing paper beneath self-adhesive stamps is being applied by the laminate manufacturer, not by the stamp printer.

Besides business sheets of the 2nd class blue (March issue, page 23), booklets of the same stamp and also the 1st class amethyst purple and 1st Large red definitives have now appeared with the underlay, all with '15' year codes. It is expected on counter sheets by the summer.

DEFINITIVE PHOSPHOR INK

A change in the appearance of the phosphor has been noted on definitive printings since mid-2015. It has a much duller fluorescent reaction than before.

This is due to the use of a new phosphor ink, rather than any alteration in the specification set by Royal Mail.

DEFINITIVE SECURITY CODES

The year code '16' has appeared on the £1.33 definitive, as well as on a number of frequently reprinted lower values.

The £1.33 was available at the Royal Mail stand at Spring Stampex. Other values are less easy to find, as most post offices are still selling older stock.

POST & GO VARIETIES

Machin-design Post & Go stamps vended by the machine at The Postal Museum (formerly the BPMA) featured the organisation's new logo from February 1. This was slightly misplaced until it was corrected on February 15.

The Locomotive design from the new Heritage Transport pictorial set was due to be available from a Post & Go machine installed at the Steam GWR Museum in Swindon from February 25, with a 'Steam GWR' location identifier and an exra 'Swindon 175' inscription to mark the 175th anniversary of the Swindon Works.

One location-specific Post & Go inscription which has only recently come to light is that of Wheatstone House, the Swindon premises of Royal Mail's facilities management company, Romec. It had a machine installed in March 2015, although it could be used only by staff and visiting contractors, and the location identifier was removed at the same time as those from the Royal Mail enquiry offices in Bradford and Crewe.

The Wheatstone House machine has since been moved to the headquarters of the British Forces Post Office at RAF Northolt in London. Once again it is not for use by the general public and its stamps have no special inscription.

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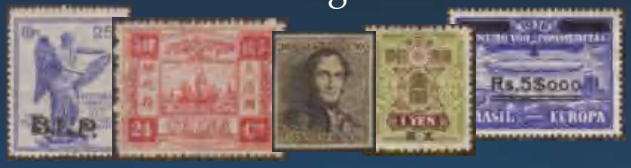

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Letters

GET IN TOUCH

These pages are devoted to giving you the opportunity to have your say. Whether you want to praise or complain, suggest or advise, add information or correct it, or just get something off your chest, we'd love to hear from you.

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The Editor reads all letters, but is unable to answer them all personally. We reserve the right to edit letters for publication.

Royal Mail's issuing policy is in line with that of Guinea-Bissau

In response to John Crace's Devil's Advocate column about the choice of themes for Great Britain's special issues (February issue, page 33), Royal Mail is in good company, judging by a quick scan of new issues from elsewhere.

If you go to Palau, you can buy a miniature sheet celebrating *Downton Abbey*. If you visit Guinea-Bissau, you can acquire one marking the 80th anniversary of the Moscow Metro. Should you ever find yourself in Mozambique, you can pick up one commemorating the work of Boris Pasternak.

In one sense, it doesn't bother me that these and other similar stamps have feeble connections to their countries of origin. If you forget for a moment that they are postage stamps, and view them simply as works of art, it becomes easier to accept their relative merits — and it is not the fault of the artists that the postal authorities for which they are working are issuing too many stamps, or choosing strange themes.

Steven Ardron, via e-mail

LETTER OF THE MONTH

Commercially-motivated stamps used to be sent to the back of the catalogue

I agree wholeheartedly with John Cumes (March issue, page 28) about the pointlessness of buying stamps churned out for purely commercial reasons.

Royal Mail's stamps division is tasked by the parent company to generate large amounts of revenue at low cost, hence the huge number of high-value, low-quality issues now produced.

On the other hand Post Office Counters wants the most efficient method of dealing with items of mail, and Horizon labels are the perfect solution. It doesn't want to sell commemorative stamps, as these are not necessary for its business.

I don't know what percentage of stamps are never postally used, and therefore represent pure profit for Royal Mail, but what's the betting that it is over 90%?

Once upon a time, I remember, stamps which had no genuine postal use were relegated to the back of the catalogue!

I continue to collect modern issues, but only engraved and recess-printed stamps, so that I can appreciate the skill and creativity of the likes of Martin Mörck and Pierre Albuisson. I'm happy to hand over money to countries such as Sweden, Monaco or the Czech Republic, as they produce quality items at a relatively cheap price.

Stuart B James, via e-mail

Supervision of Post & Go is not good enough

John Crace's Devil's Advocate column was bang on the money (February issue, page 33). Ever since Royal Mail became more interested in the bottom line rather than the integrity of its philatelic output, embarrassment is becoming its *tour de force*.

The Post & Go issues despatched from the philatelic service with incorrect service indicators are proof that all is not well with the organisation's attempt to get up to speed with stamp printing technology.

It beggars belief that the people who are directly responsible for ensuring that Post & Go machines issue the correct stamps with the correct values are being allowed to follow up each error with several more. Not nearly enough time is being spent on supervising the correct implementation of these machines.

The upside to this is that we collectors are more likely to happen upon valuable errors, but they will only be valuable if the machine does not pump out too many of them. At the moment, that looks unlikely.

Andrew Martin, Weymouth

Rejuvenated fervour for Penny Red postal history

Thank you for the very interesting and well-written feature on Penny Red postal history (March issue, page 40).

It prompted me to get my modest collection of Penny Red covers out, after many years of neglect, and I looked at them with renewed interest, discovering several exciting facets which I had previously overlooked.

Richard Tadman, Ripley

SOAPBOX

Stanley Gibbons is struggling financially because it forgot what it does best: dealing in stamps. It needs to get back to basics, argues philatelist and fund manager Allan Brink

ABOVE: Stanley Gibbons' famous shop at 339 Strand, London. If it is to start making profits again, does the company's primary focus have to be on stamp dealing?

All readers of this magazine will recognise the name Stanley Gibbons: a stamp dealer since 1856, and the publisher of the best English-language worldwide catalogue, with premises at 339 Strand in London and a royal warrant of appointment.

Fewer readers may be aware that Stanley Gibbons is quoted on the alternative investment market (AIM) of the London Stock Exchange. Recently its shares have been plummeting in value, so what's gone wrong?

CHANGE OF FOCUS

Until about four years ago, Stanley Gibbons essentially just traded stamps and postal history.

It pioneered the message that philatelic material should be considered a special asset class, and therefore subject to financial investment not necessarily driven by a burning desire to fill a blank space in an album. This was based on the solid evidence that the prices of rare and exquisite stamps held up well during the financial crisis of 2008 and subsequently.

It also launched the SG30 index and SG250 index, stock exchange-like indices (actually listed on Bloomberg) which track the values of the rarest 30 and 250 British stamps respectively.

Eventually, however, just trading in stamps apparently became too boring for the board of directors and management of Stanley Gibbons, as they sought to increase the company's revenues. With the company in good financial standing, they decided to expand into other collectables.

Gibbons bought a number of other companies, among them Noble Investments, a dealer in coins, medals, fine wine, jewellery and manuscripts, for £46.4m, Mallett, an antiques dealer with showrooms in London and New York City, for £8.6m, and Murray Payne, a philatelic dealer specialising in King George VI, for £1.0m.

Around the same time, the company moved its headquarters and management to Jersey.

FALLING PROFITS

Gibbons' sales increased from £35.6m in 2011-12 to £56.9m in 2014-15. However, pre-tax profits fell from £5.3m to only £3.1m, and a healthy bank balance of £6.8m turned into a net debt of £11.7m.

Unfortunately, that negative trend has continued. When the company last reported, for the first half of the 2015-16 financial year, half-yearly sales were £27.0m but pre-tax profits had fallen to £0.4m. Net debt had increased to £17.0m, and the company was forced to cut the dividend paid to shareholders.

The acquisitions of other companies have taken a toll. Not only has Gibbons incurred extra debt, but the issue of more than 12 million shares to finance the purchase of Noble Investments means that its meagre profits now have to be divided between a total of 47 million shareholders.

The company openly admits that it has taken its eyes off the ball. Chairman Martin Bralsford said in his comments accompanying the interim results: 'The integration of acquisitions and management change has clearly represented a distraction to short-term sales initiatives, particularly from our sizeable philatelic inventory, contributing to the sharp decline in our trading performance.'

DEVALUED SHARES

The stock market has not been slow in marking down Stanley Gibbons shares, which have seen a spectacular 88% fall, from a high of 380p in February 2014 to less than 45p in February 2016.

Stanley Gibbons is majority-owned by a number of investment funds, which have problems in reacting to bad news as the limited liquidity in the shares on the AIM market means that selling large holdings is like a shot in the foot.

Nevertheless, the way the share price stabilised in January on a very high turnover of 7.2m shares (about 15% of the total) traded, makes it appear that some of the investment funds decided to bite the bullet, while bargain-hunters stepped in, in the hope of buying at the bottom of the market.

It remains to be seen whether the current board of directors and management will be able to turn the company around, or whether the shareholders will seek to bring in new blood at the annual general meeting, which takes place in May or June.

BACK TO BASICS

Companies should never forget to focus on the things which made them successful in the first place.

Stanley Gibbons should get back to concentrating on buying and selling rare stamps. And if it really has ambitions to be a global company, perhaps London is a better place to be than St Helier?

Allan Brink

The force awakens, with far too much gusto

I've never been of a fan of *Star Wars*. Neither has Royal Mail, beyond the profit-driven motive for issuing 18 stamps on the theme. And neither, it seems, has at least one postman.

Just observe the violent frenzy of the biro. Was it something about the neat placement of the postmarks that the scribbler couldn't abide? Or was it the guilty pleasure of being able to doodle away almost invisibly in blue on blue? Excessive force was with him.

Mary Bartlett, Dartington

Postal system relying on the kindness of strangers

As a member of Postcrossing, the postcard exchanging organisation, I discovered a fascinating story when I went online to register a postcard I'd received.

Did anyone know about the Galapagos Islands postbox, an unofficial postal system which has existed for more then 220 years, relying on the kindness of strangers to deliver unstamped mail?

18th-century ships whaling or trading in the Pacific Ocean might be away from their home ports for long stretches of time, even years, so communication between the crews and their families was difficult.

But Floreana Island in the Galapagos was a particularly popular stop-off for repair work or to pick up water and food, so in 1793 one Captain James Colnett set up a simple wooden barrel where mail could be left, to be picked by other mariners who might return to their home ports more quickly and hand-deliver them to the addressees. The place became known as Post Office Bay, and apparently the system is still in operation!

Visit www.postcrossing.com/blog/2015/11/08/the-post-office-in-galapagos-islands

Barrie Wright, via e-mail

First Dutch stamps had a Posthorn watermark

Your feature on the first issue of the Netherlands (January issue, page 38) was very interesting and illustrated, with some fine examples of the stamps and their use. However, I would like to correct one error.

It was stated that the stamps were printed on hand-made paper with no watermark. In fact, the paper had a Posthorn watermark.

The UK's specialist society in this field is the Netherlands Philatelic Circle, which covers all aspects of Dutch philately including the former colonies of Curacao, Suriname, the Netherlands Antilles and the Netherlands Indies, as well as Indonesia. Anyone who is interested should visit www.netherlandsphilatelic.org.uk

Ray Welland, Netherlands Philatelic Circle

Stamps could be pen-cancelled even in Queen Victoria's day

I found this used 1887-92 9d stamp in an old collection I bought at a general auction. It has been well and truly pen cancelled, reminding us that the practice was not unknown in Queen Victoria's day!

Bob White, via e-mail

Anyone for tennis?

Royal Mail missed a golden opportunity to make thousands of pounds from a stamp issue (from the usual mugs and also from tennis fans), by failing to commemorate the British victory in the Davis Cup in November.

Did it take its eye off the ball because because it took Britain so long to win it, or was it because most of the winning team were Scots?

Elizabeth Hands, via e-mail

HOT TOPICS

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GREAT BRITAIN OFF PAPER COMMEMS NO XMAS. Previously included Xmas, we can now supply without so the rarer Commems only. Wealth of variety from KGVI to 2011, includes some high values. Approx 5000 stamps to 1 lb weight. ¼ lb £22.00, ½ lb £42.00, 1 lb £80.00.

FOREIGN & COMMONWEALTH ON PAPER MIXTURES.

OVERSEAS FOREIGN & COMMONWEALTH CHARITY MIXTURE. With over 120 Charity sources in this country it is not surprising that this is the ultimate mixture of Foreign & Commonwealth stamps essentially on paper. Enormous variety and mostly modern as it is collected from offices on a day to day basis. Many h. values as many are Air mail values and a lot will never be seen in approval books! 1 lb £30.00, 2 lbs £55.00, 5 lbs £125.00.

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH. We have taken the best stamps from around the Commonwealth to give you this superb mixture of mostly Commemoratives. Great variety with no GB, India, or Pakistan, but a great selection from Africa, the Caribbean & Pacific. Much modern & many h. values. A very superior mixture. ½ lb £33.00, 1 lb £65.00.

SPECIAL OFFER NO.2: Buy 1 lb Aus, Canada, N.Z & U.S.A for the discounted price of £62.00. List Price £72.00.

AUSTRALIA. On paper charity mix, very modern up to 2015 with dream variety, many Commems and high values, collected from a school-teacher in the Outback. Approx. 2500 stamps / 1 lb. 1 lb £16.00, 2 lbs £30.00.

CANADA. Sold out before, we have been fortunate to get fresh stocks from the increasingly difficult country. A colourful on paper charity mixture from the Canadian Save the Children Fund of Commems, Defins, Large Pictorials and high values. 1 lb £20.00, 2 lbs. £39.00.

NEW ZEALAND. On Paper charity mixture with Commems and higher values includes difficult to find modern. Supplied to us exclusively by a N.Z Charity. Approx. 2500 stamps / 1lb. ½ lb £11.00, 1 lb £20.00.

U.S.A. An on paper charity mixture with stupendous variety. There can't be many mixtures so attractive and with such good count. Approx count 3500 to 4000 stamps. Per 1lb £16.00, 2lbs £30.00.

AUSTRALIA COMMEMS. On paper modern mix, great variety plus many h.values.½ lb £15, 1 lb £28.00.

CHANNEL ISLES & ISLE OF MAN. An On Paper mixture of Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney and I.O.M containing a wealth of variety, strong in Commems, Booklets, Greetings & h.values. ½ lb £18.00, 1lb £35.00.

U.S.A COMMEMS. Commems no Xmas, great variety, much modern. ½ lb £25.00, 1 lb £48.00.

SPECIAL OFFER No.3: Buy 1 lb Ireland Charity & ½ lb Ireland Commems for the discounted price of £45. List price £56.

IRELAND COMMEMS. Includes very modern and rare! ¼ lb £21.00, ½ lb £40.00.

IRELAND CHARITY. On paper. This emanates from convents throughout the Republic, is mostly modern with a wealth of Commems. Price £16.50 / lb.

SPECIAL OFFER NO. 4: Buy 1 lb World, 1 lb British Commonwealth and 1 lb W. Europe Scoop for the discounted price of £130. List price £150.00.

WORLD SCOOP. An Off paper mix scooped from our oddments tub. Emanating from Charities, Auctions, personal collections etc. You will find high Cat (please tell us when you do) & many additions for your collection. Each 1 lb lot is over 7000 stamps, costing around ½ p each. ½ lb £18.00, 1 lb £35.00, 5 lbs £155.00.

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH SCOOP. Sold out over the last 8 months, we can now supply more of our popular Off paper mixture covering old Empire & modern Commonwealth. Several clients found stamps cataloguing £10 to £50 each. No promises but with at least 7,000 stamps/1lb you'll have great fun sorting. ½ lb £31.00, 1 lb £60.00.

WEST EUROPE SCOOP. An Off paper mixture of small and large stamps with much earlier material. Many better and unusual values. In great demand as our interests in the EEC grow. Approx. 10,000 stamps to 1 lb costing around ½ p each. Price ½ lb £28.00, 1 lb £55.00.

NEW! JAPAN COMMEMS. A great off paper mixture of Commemoratives only. Much modern with approximately 700 stamps per 2 oz at around 3p per stamp!! 2 oz £23.00, 1/4 lb £45.00.

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Continued from page 13

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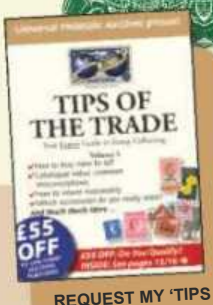

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UNREQUITED LOVE

Besides your real collection, you deserve a dream collection: the one you would put together if money was no object, but which you know will only ever exist in your mind

THE AUTHOR
John Crace is a GB collector specialising in early booklet panes, and a newspaper columnist

It's the fate of almost every collector to have an unrequited passion. Indeed, the out-of-reach is an integral part of the pleasure and fascination in collecting.

Imagine winning the lottery and finding yourself able to buy every stamp you ever wanted. You could indulge your wildest fantasies. For the right price, any rarity could be yours, even if there were only a few examples in private hands.

For a day or so, it would be a wondrous feeling, but surely it would pale once you realised that it had taken much of the tension out of your hobby. Passion is all the greater when it is unrequited.

When I first started collecting, at the age of eight, my father bought me a Stanley Gibbons catalogue of Great Britain stamps. This being 1965, and my dad being my dad (he had never really got to grips with the end of rationing), it was a secondhand copy from the 1950s. Even so, it was my window to philatelic aspiration.

There were some stamps I drooled over at again and again. The 1882 £5 orange, the 1929 PUC £1, the 1935 Silver Jubilee 2½d Prussian blue, and the 1913-34 Seahorses. All these were far more iconic to me than the comparatively common Penny Black.

Fifty years have dulled the memory, and alas I no longer have the catalogue, so forgive me if for not recalling the exact figures, but I am sure these stamps were available for under £100 each. If only, if only...

Of course, value is relative, and when my pocket money was 6d per week (3d for spending, 3d for saving) any stamp costing more than 2s 6d was the stuff of fantasy. But I knew my mum and dad had a lot more than a few hundred quid between them, so I couldn't understand why they hadn't gone out and bought these stamps for themselves.

In some ways I still can't. Had they done so, they'd have made a great deal more money on them than on other investments they did make. And sadly that's one ability I definitely inherited from my parents: the knack of buying the wrong thing at the wrong time!

Strangely, I no longer hanker for the £5 orange, the PUC £1 or the 2½d Prussian blue. I still think they are objects of beauty and wonder, but I am perfectly happy to let them exist in the collections of other people.

The Seahorses, however, are a different matter. For some reason, these beautiful recess-printed King George V high values still have the same primal pull that they did when I was a child.

Were a lottery win or an unexpected inheritance to head my way, I'd be straight on the phone to several stamp dealers, wanting to know what they had in stock, and starting to put a collection together.

In my mind, mine would be the finest collection of Seahorses ever assembled. All would be unmounted mint, in corner blocks of four. All four printings, by Waterlow Bros & Layton in 1913, by De La Rue in 1915, by Bradbury Wilkinson in 1918 and by Waterlow & Sons in 1934, would be meticulously written up and displayed in glass cabinets.

Every shade would be included (except perhaps the ones that only seem to exist in the imaginations of some stamp dealers). Pride of place would go to the 10s Cambridge blue and the £1 deep green. Don't ask me why. I just love the colours.

This cost of putting it together ensures that this is a collection which will never exist except in my imagination. But what's the point of being a collector, if not to dream? ■

ABOVE: The beautiful King George V Seahorses comprise John Crace's dream collection. It's the finest of its kind that will ever be ever assembled, trust him on that

'In my mind, mine would be the finest collection of Seahorses ever assembled: all four printings in corner blocks of four, with every shade and variety, displayed in glass cabinets'

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Do you have a dream collection? Should everyone have one? Is it better than John's? Does it frustrate you or inspire you? E-mail your comments to guy.thomas@mytimemedia.com

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ALL STAMPS ARE USED UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

AUSTRALIA ANTARCTIC

C008 2009 MINT M/S PRSV POLAR REGIONS CAT £8 PRICE £2.95
B888 2009 2 X 55c 1ST EXPEDITION SG 186-7 CAT £4 PRICE 75p
B416 2009 M/S SOUTH MAGNETIC POLE PRICE £2.75
G253 2009 M/S PRESERVE POLAR REGIONS CAT £8 PRICE £2.75
E184 2010 2 X 60c MACQUARIE ISLANDS CAT £4.50 PRICE 75p
D561 2011 5CU STRIP AUSTRALASIAN EXPEDITION CAT £8 PRICE £2.75
E293 2011 M/S AUSTRALASIAN EXPEDITION CAT £8 (13) PRICE £3.45
E292 2011 M/S ICEBERGS MS202 CAT £7 PRICE £3.25
C545 2011 4 CU S/A ICEBERGS CAT £5.75 PRICE 65p
B154 2012 MINT M/S PHILLIP LAW PRICE £3.75
E164 2012 60c PHILLIP LAW EXPLR SG 214 CAT £1.75 PRICE 45p
E263 2013 MINT M/S ANTARCTIC MOUNTAINS PRICE £4.50
E448 2014 1911-14 MINT M/S ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION PRICE £4.25
E451 2014 MINT M/S HUSKIES PRICE £3.95
E198 2014 HUSKIES TOP TWO $1.40 VALUES PRICE £3.50
E431 2015 MINT M/S COLOURS OF THE ANTARCTIC PRICE £3.75
E472 2015 MINT M/S DOGS THAT SAVED MACQUARIE PRICE £3.95

AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL USED

2016 CAT VALUES - JUST A FRACTION OF OUR STOCK

SG 3737 $2.35 SHELDUCK CAT £6.50 PRICE £1.35
SG 3741 $2.35 SHELDUCK CAT £7 PRICE £2.35
SG 3805 $1.60 POLE VAULT CAT £3.75 PRICE £1.75
SG 3806 $2.35 ROWING CAT £6.50 PRICE £2.75
SG 3808 $1.60 POLE VAULT S/A CAT £4 PRICE £4.00
SG 3809 $2.35 ROWING S/A CAT £6.50 PRICE £2.95
SG 3850 $4.50 CRADLE MOUNTAIN CAT £10.50 PRICE £5.25
SG 3986 $2.60 LIGHT HORSEMAN CAT £6 PRICE £2.55
SG 4100 $2.60 CHRISTENING CAT £3.75 PRICE £2.50
SG 4103 $2.60 CHRISTENING CAT £3.50 PRICE £3.25
SG 4123 $2.60 ASHES CAT £4 PRICE £1.75
SG 4142 $2.60 QE2 BIRTHDAY CAT £4 PRICE £2.25
SG 4144 $2.60 QE2 BIRTHDAY S/A CAT £4 PRICE £3.50
SG 4191 $2.60 FIRST AIR MAIL CAT £6 PRICE £1.75
SG 4257 $5.35 WILDERNESS CAT £10.50 PRICE £5.25
SG 4258 $7.40 WILDERNESS CAT £15 PRICE £4.50
SG 4259 $1.85 TASMAN DEVIL AS/A CAT £3.75 PRICE £2.75
SG 4260 $1.95 SIDNEY HARBOUR BRIDGE S/A CAT £4 PRICE £1.75

AUSTRALIAN USED

Australia 60c. Stamp

D373 1913-14 2d 'ROO CAT £6.50 PRICE 95p
C231 1913 3d MIN CAT £9 PRICE £1.45
D498 1913-14 6d MIN CAT £20 PRICE £3.75
D224 1915-28 3d 'ROO CAT £4.50 PRICE 75p
D858 1915-28 6d 'ROO MIN CAT £7.50 PRICE £1.55
D225 1915-28 1/- 'ROO MIN CAT £4.75 PRICE 95p
D648 1931 6d AIR SG 139 CAT £15 PRICE £4.95
G171 1937-49 10/- THIN PAPER SG 177a CAT £35 PRICE £14
D353 1940 4 CU AIF CAT £36 PRICE £12
E351 2012 1 CU OLIVIA NEWTON JOHN S/A PRICE 95p
D671 1948-56 £1 ARMS SG 224c CAT £3.75 PRICE £1.65
G276 1964-5 2/5d WREN RARE SG 367a CAT £9 PRICE £1.95
G272 1989 3 CU URBAN ENVIRONMENT CAT £4.05 PRICE 45p
C560 1998 12 CU LEGENDS S/A CAT £9.50) PRICE £3.45
E335 2000 25 CU FACES OF AUSTRALIA CTO CAT £13 PRICE £3.75
D189 2000 18 CU GOLD MEDAL WINNERS CAT £8.10 PRICE £2.95
C509 2009 5 CU CLASSIC TOYS CAT £6.75) PRICE £1.95
X016 2009 5 CU LET'S GET ACTIVE CAT £6 PRICE £2.55
G179 2010 4 X 55c KOKODA SG 3374-7 CAT £4.40 PRICE £1.45
X022 2010 5 CU ADOPTED AND ADORED S/A CAT £5.50 PRICE 60p
D286 2012 6 CU ZOO ANIMALS S/A CAT £8.25 PRICE 75p
C841 2012 2 CU BALLET SG 3878-9 CAT £2.80 PRICE £1.25
C152 2012 6 CU GREETINGS WITH $1.20 CAT £8.75 PRICE £4.75
C601 2012 5 CU GREETINGS S/A CAT £6.75 PRICE £1.75
B150 2012 8 CU S/A LEGENDS OF FOOTBALL CAT £10 PRICE £3.45
E341 2012 5 CU LIVING AUSTRALIA S/A CAT £7 PRICE 75p
B783 2012 5 CU NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS S/A CAT £7 PRICE 45p
E422 2012 4 CU BATHURST RACES CAT £5.50 PRICE £3.75
C128 2012 4 CU BATHURST RACES S/A CAT £5.50 PRICE 95p
D823 2013 10 CU MUSIC LEGENDS S/A CAT £13 PRICE £3.75
E329 2013 XMAS 2 X 55c FOIL HIGHLIGHTING PRICE 75p
G101 2014 2 CU CONCESSION RATE S/A PRICE 40p
E271 2014 5 CU EQUESTRIAN EVENTS PRICE £2.45
C984 2014 4 CU S/A BUSH BALLADS PRICE 45p
E478 2014 4 CU RAILWAY STATIONS S/A PRICE 45p
C241 2014 5 CU CENTENARY OF WW1 PRICE £3.25
E406 2014 5 CU WW1 CENTENARY S/A PRICE £1.25
B310 2014 2 CU SOUTHERN LIGHTS S/A PRICE 35p
D974 2014 6 CU STINGERS S/A PRICE 95p
D098 2014 5 CU OPEN GARDENS S/A PRICE 65p
D375 2015 4 LOW VALUES S/A NATIVE ANIMALS PRICE 75p
D305 2015 4 CU TOURIST TRANSPORT S/A PRICE 65p

G386 2015 5 CU S/A CATS PRICE 50p
D703 2015 4 CU S/A AUSTRALIAN WALKS PRICE 45p
D436 2015 4 CU S/A COLLECTIONS PRICE 45p
B030 2015 4 CU S/A LIGHTHOUSES PRICE 45p

CANADA

G166 1908 5C QUEBEC SG 191 GOOD/FU CAT £38 PRICE £14
B810 1980 7c QUEBEC GOOD/FINE SG 192 CAT £65 PRICE £18
E466 1908 10c QUEBEC GOOD/FINE SG 193 CAT £85 PRICE £25
E467 1908 15c SG 194 GOOD/FU CAT £95 PRICE £29
B091 1922 20c OFFICIAL SG S4 CAT £6.50 PRICE £1.35
C078 1927 12c CONFED. SG 270 CAT £6.50 PRICE £1.25
C085 1927 12c HISTORICAL SG 272 CAT £4.50 PRICE 75p
C092 1927 20c HISTORICAL SG 273 CAT £13 PRICE £1.95

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D800 1928 1c IMPERF SG 286 CAT £27 PRICE £3.95
C093 1928 5c AIR SG 274 CAT £4.75 PRICE £1.35
D391 1928-9 4c SG 278 CAT £12 PRICE £1.95
D410 1928-9 8c SG 280 CAT £7 PRICE 95p
C095 1928-9 12c QUEBEC BRIDGE SG 282 CAT £19 PRICE £2.95
B824 1928 50c BLUE NOSE SG 284 CAT £50 PRICE £29
D443 1928 $1 PARLIAMENT SG 285 CAT £80 PRICE £24
C356 1929 20c HARVESTING SG 283 CAT £19 PRICE £2.95
D973 1930 20c OFFICIAL SG S6 CAT £7 PRICE £1.55
C108 1930-1 12c CITADEL SG 300 CAT £5.50 PRICE 95p
D504 1930-1 20c HARVESTING SG 301 CAT £1.50 PRICE 45p
C037 1930 50c GRAND PRE SG 302 CAT £17 PRICE £4.75
C498 1930 $1 MOUNT CAVELL SG 303 CAT £38 PRICE £15
B875 1930 2c GREEN IMPERF SG 306 CAT £8 PRICE £1.25
B508 1932 6c ON 5c AIR OTTAWA SG 318 CAT £23 PRICE £3.25
D424 1932-3 4c GEORGE V SG 322 CAT £12 PRICE £2.35
D518 1932 13c CITADEL SG 325 CAT £2.25 PRICE 55p
B258 1933 1c IMPERF SG 326 CAT £6.50 PRICE 95p
G496 1933 2c SG 327 CAT £4.50 PRICE 75p
G498 1933 3c SG 328 CAT £2.50 PRICE 55p
C520 1935 10c SILVER JUBILEE SG 339 CAT £9.50 PRICE £1.75
C533 1837-8 50c VANCOUVER SG 366 CAT £15 PRICE £3.25
C534 1937-8 $1 CHATEAU SG 367 CAT £15 PRICE £3.25
G451 1937 3 CU TO 3c COIL SG 368-70 CAT £14.75 PRICE £1.75
C126 1938-9 10c SPECIAL DELIVERY SG S9 CAT £4 PRICE 95p
D971 1939 8c OFFICIAL SG O125 CAT £5 PRICE 95p
C156 1946 $1 FERRY SG 406 CAT £6.50 PRICE £1.45
D616 1951 $1 FISHERMAN SG 433 CAT £5 PRICE £1.55
C585 1993 12 CU PARKS SG 1545-56 CAT £9.60 PRICE £2.95
D632 1994 12 CU TREES CAT £10.80 PRICE £4.95
C579 1995 10 CU GROUP OF SEVEN RARE PRICE £3.75
D581 1996 25 CU HISTORIC AUTOS FROM M/S CTO PRICE £6.95
D947 1996 10 CU CINEMA FROM M/S PRICE £3.95
G385 2003 8 CU CANADIAN ASTRONAUTS CAT £6.80 PRICE £3.95
C059 2005 85c CORMORANT SG 2344 CAT £2.50 PRICE 75p
X087 2008 $1.60 CHURCHILL S/A SG 2554 CAT £4.50 PRICE £2.25
D427 2010 $10 WHALE SG 1762c CAT £13 PRICE £6.75
B156 2012 4 CU TITANIC CAT £6.25 PRICE £2.55
E356 2012 $2 DIAMOND JUBILEE SG 2857 CAT £1.25 PRICE £1.75
G120 2012 9 CU GREY CUP CAT £11 PRICE £3.95
B326 2013 $1.85 NEW YEAR GOLDEN HORSE CAT £2.75 PRICE £1.35
D795 2013 $1.85 RAOUL WALLENBURG CAT £2.75 PRIC £1.45
E447 2013 $1.85 PHOTOGRAPHY SG 2924 CAT £2.75 PRICE £1.75
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E475 2014 $2.50 BABY WILDLIFE PRICE £1.25
B023 2014 5 CU HERITAGE SITES CAT £5.75 (14) PRICE £1.65
E360 2014 UNESCO 3 X $1.20 VALUES PRICE £3.75
E361 2014 UNESCO 2 X $2.50 PRICE £4.95
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E366 2014 5 CU COMEDIANS PRICE £1.95
C518 2015 5 CU PETS PRICE £1.95
C927 2015 5 CU WEATHER PRICE £1.95
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B023 2014 5 CU HERITAGE SITES CAT £5.75 (14) PRICE £1.65
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E470 1952 9 CM TO 1/- CAT £70.50 PRICE £29
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G234 1964 2 1/2d MINT BATTLE SG 215 CAT £11 PRICE 95p

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G200 1877-90 75c PEACE & COMRCE SG 274 CAT £31 PRICE £1.75

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D247 1938 2/- SG 130 OR 130a MIN CAT £20 PRICE £5
D250 1938 5/- SG 131 OR 131a MIN CAT £23 PRICE £5.50
B063 1948 2/- SG 144 CAT £3.50 PRICE 75p

GREAT BRITAIN

D415 1934 2/6 SEA HORSE SG 450 CAT £40 PRICE £2.75

INDIA

B080 1935 7 CU SILVER JUBILEE CAT £9.80 PRICE £1.45

MOROCCO AGENCIES

D491 1935 MINT SILVER JUBILEE 5c & 10c CAT £3.75 PRICE 55p
D372 1948 4 CM OLYMPIC GMS SG 178-190 CAT £2.10 PRICE 75p

NEW ZEALAND

C020 1940 13 CU CENT. CAT £22+ PRICE £4.50
D728 1940 2 CU HEALTH SG 626-7 CAT £28 PRICE £6.75
D521 1941 2 CU HEALTH SG 632-3 CAT £4.50 PRICE £1.25
D755 1953 2/6 3/- 5/- QE II CAT £13 PRICE £3.45
D670 1953-8 10/- QE II HORSEBACK CAT £19 PRICE £5
C838 1963 2 CU RAILWAY CENT. CAT £1.60 PRICE 65p
D179 1965 2 CU GALLIPOLI CAT 70p PRICE 50p
C630 1967-70 $2 GEISER SG 879 CAT £13 PRICE £6
D589 1969 4 CU COOK CAT £7.70 PRICE £2.95
C140 1988 6 CU WHALES CAT £8.95 PRICE £2.95
C271 1994 14 CU CRICKET CAT £13 PRICE £3.55
D950 1997 10 CU LETTERBOXES CAT £5 PRICE 95p

NIGERIA

B066 1938-51 2/6 MIN CAT £3.50 PRICE £1.25
B067 1938-51 5/- MIN CAT £3 PRICE 95p

NEW ZEALAND MINT HEALTH SHEETS

2014 CAT VALUES (2) = 2 SHEETS

D833 1958 (2) CAT £10 PRICE £3.55
G180 1960 (2) CAT £27 PRICE £7.75
D346 1966 (2) CAT £22 PRICE £7.75
D511 1967 (2) CAT £23 PRICE £7.50
C211 1968 (2) CAT £16 PRICE £6
G181 1969 (2) CAT £16 PRICE £5.75

PARADIGM (Dept S416) 1989 VISTA GRANDE DR. VISTA CA 92084 USA

COMPETITION
Spot The Stamp

WIN

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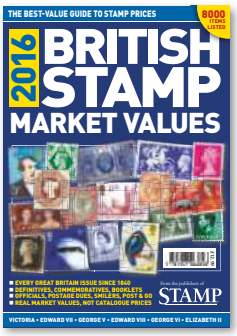
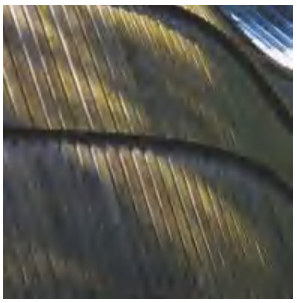


We have a copy of *British Stamp Market Values 2016*, the authoritative annual price guide from the publishers of *Stamp Magazine*, to give away to one eagle-eyed reader.

For your chance to win, simply take a close look at the enlarged detail of a GB stamp shown below and see whether you can identify it. All you have to do is tell us the stamp's face value, the name of the set it is from and the year of issue.

Send your answer on a postcard (or sealed envelope) with your name, address and telephone number, to Spot The Stamp (Apr), *Stamp Magazine*, My Time Media Ltd, Enterprise House, Enterprise Way, Edenbridge, Kent TN8 6HG.

The closing date is April 14, 2016, and the first correct answer drawn from our postbag after that date will win the book. Good luck!



Terms & Conditions: Entry is open to UK residents with a permanent UK address, except employees (and their families) of MyTimeMedia, its printers and agents, and any other companies associated with the competition. Winners must be aged 18 or over. Only one entry per household is permissible. No responsibility can be accepted for entries lost, damaged or delayed in the post. Winners will be notified by post. Prizes are not transferable to another individual and no cash or other alternatives will be offered. The promoters reserve the right to amend or alter the terms of competitions. The winner will be chosen from all correct entries received by the closing date stated. The decision of the judges is final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

COMPETITION
Royal Mail prizes

WIN

a British Humanitarians presentation pack

We have a presentation pack of the British Humanitarians issue to give away to each of 12 lucky winners, courtesy of Royal Mail.

The set of six honours six selfless people who devoted their energies to helping others over the past two centuries (see page 20).

To enter, simply visit our website, www.stampmagazine.co.uk/competitions, answer the question below and fill in your contact details. Terms and conditions apply.

The closing date is April 14, 2016, and the winners will be drawn at random after that date.

QUESTION

Which of the featured humanitarians drafted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child?

COMPETITION WINNERS

2015 Royal Mail Yearbook

The answer to our competition question in the January issue was that a game of croquet was featured in 2015's Alice in Wonderland issue.

The lucky winner whose correct answer was drawn at random from our postbag was B Chandler from Middlesbrough, who should receive his prize from Royal Mail shortly.

Spot The Stamp

The Spot The Stamp winner from the January issue is Les Gandy from Preston, who correctly identified the mystery stamp (right) as the 63p value from the 1998 British Land Speed Record Holders set, illustrating Donald Campbell's *Bluebird CN7*, which achieved 403mph in 1964.

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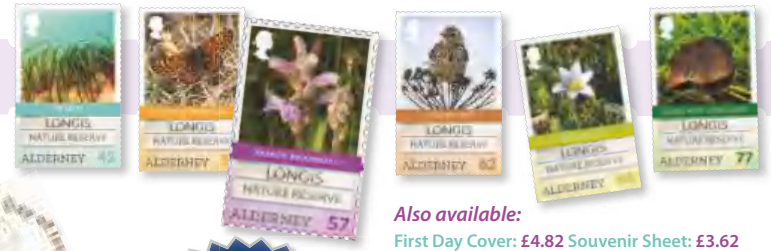

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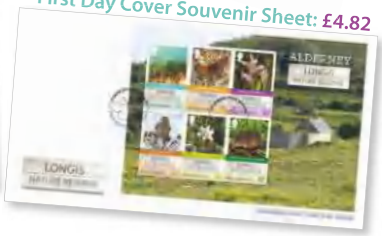

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Light fantastic

At the dawn of the 20th century, airships appeared to be the long-distance transport for the future for both passengers and mail. The exotic craft and their exotic covers are synonymous with one man, Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin

Report by John Winchester

In the 18th and 19th centuries, the pioneers of lighter-than-air flying machines had almost exclusively been French.

In 1783 Joseph-Michel and Jacques-Étienne Montgolfier ascended to 1,800m in a tethered hot-air balloon, and Jacques Charles demonstrated the advantages of hydrogen by reaching an altitude of about 3,000m in an untethered flight.

In 1785 Jean-Pierre Blanchard crossed the English Channel (124 years before the first crossing by aeroplane) in a balloon which was fitted with bird-like moveable wings and a tail for rudimentary propulsion and steering. Finally, in 1852, Henri Giffard invented the powered airship, controlled by a steam engine driving a propeller.

This achievement ensured that the original term for a powered airship was a French word: dirigible, which means 'steerable'.

That Germany took over the lead role in airship development at the dawn of the 20th century was down to one man, Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin.

ABOVE: The airship *Hindenburg* flying over New York on May 6, 1937, hours before the disaster which brought an end to the golden age of the Zeppelin

LEFT: A stamp from Anguilla's 1983 set marking the 200th Anniversary of Manned Flight shows the first 'dirigible', Henri Giffard's steam-powered airship of 1852

Design inspirations

Although he was born in Konstanz (Constance) in the Grand Duchy of Baden in 1838, Zeppelin was raised in the military aristocracy of the neighbouring Kingdom of Württemberg.

He studied engineering as an army cadet, and was sent to the United States to act as an observer during the American Civil War in 1863, where he noted the use of tethered balloons as observation posts and even made his first ascent, in Minnesota.

Appointed adjutant to the King of Württemberg in 1865, he took part in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71, and was impressed by the use of balloons to carry passengers and mail out of besieged Paris.

In 1874, after reading a lecture by Heinrich von Stephan, the director of the postal system in the new

ABOVE: Germany commemorated 100 years of Zeppelins in 2000 with a stamp showing *LZ 1*, ready to take off from Lake Constance in 1900

ABOVE: Hungary's 1988 stamp marking the 150th Anniversary of Ferdinand von Zeppelin's birth illustrates *LZ 4*, launched in 1908

ABOVE: Portraits of Ferdinand von Zeppelin on German stamps of 1934 with *Graf Zeppelin* (left), 1938 with *LZ 5* (centre), and 1992 with *Graf Zeppelin* (right)

German Empire, entitled 'A World Postal System & Airship Travel', he outlined his first proposal for the construction of large rigid-framed dirigibles.

Following retirement from the army after several spells as a Prussian cavalry officer, in 1891, Zeppelin began to devote his full attention to airship development at the age of 53.

Problematic prototypes

After seeking guidance from prominent Württemberg motor engineers Gottlieb Daimler and William Maybach, Zeppelin set up a company, Luftschiffbau Zeppelin, to build airships in a floating hangar near Friedrichshafen on Bodensee (Lake Constance).

The concept was for a number of fabric or animal-skin bags of hydrogen enclosed in a rigid metal framework of transverse rings and longitudinal girders, all within a fabric outer shell. Power would be provided by petrol engines mounted in a gondola underneath, which would also provide accommodation for passengers.

The prototype *LZ 1* made her maiden flight, lasting 18 minutes, on July 2, 1900. Underpowered and lacking stability fins, she neither impressed the military observers nor generated investment in the company as had been hoped.

After raising new funding, partly from a state lottery authorised by the King of Württemberg, Zeppelin bounced back five years later. *LZ 2* suffered from mechanical problems in 1905, but *LZ 3* successfully achieved an eight-hour flight in 1907, and *LZ 4* captured the imagination of the public and of Kaiser Wilhelm II in 1908.

When *LZ 4* was destroyed by an explosion of her hydrogen gas after breaking free of her moorings at Echterdingen in a storm, it might have been the end of the road for Zeppelin. However, a rallying of public support raised six million marks in what became known as 'the Miracle of Echterdingen', enabling his work to continue.

Commercial success

The flight by *LZ 4* on August 4, 1908, had seen the tentative birth of Zeppelin philatelic mail, as commemorative cards (without stamps or cachets) were dropped overboard and finders were requested to forward them to the addressee.

LEFT: Oval cachet used on mail carried by *LZ 11 Viktoria-Luise* on July 18, 1913

ABOVE: A rare surviving example of a Zeppelin drop bag dropped from *LZ 6* in 1909-10, complete with its ribbon streamer. It originally enclosed yellow and blue postcards, plus a 50pf reward for the finder

Such initiatives were developed further after an operating company, Deutsche Luftschiffahrts-Aktiengesellschaft (German Airship Travel Corporation) was set up in November 1909. DELAG, as it was known, which was effectively the world's first commercial airline, threw drop-bags overboard containing a small financial reward for the finders, and yellow-and-blue postcards which would yield a personal message from Count von Zeppelin if they were posted.

Airships were not yet reliable enough to be used for inter-city mail delivery. Indeed, DELAG's first three vessels, *LZ 6*, *LZ 7 Deutschland* and *LZ 8 Deutschland II*, were all destroyed in 1910-11, by fire in a hangar, a crash-landing and storm damage respectively.

However, the next generation proved itself commercially viable over the next three years, with *LZ 10 Schwaben* making 218 flights, *LZ 13 Hansa* 399 flights (including the first outside Germany) and *LZ 17 Sachsen* 419 flights.

The carriage of mail reached a respectable level, with official recognition by the Imperial Postal Service and the crew selling stamped, illustrated airmail cards to passengers.

Military takeover

With the outbreak of World War I, DELAG was forced to surrender its entire fleet of airships to the German military, which refitted them with bomb racks and added machine guns in the tail.

Other countries declined to build airships specifically for military purposes, as 34 aeroplanes could be manufactured for the price of ▷

WAR PROPAGANDA

Propaganda cinderellas of World War I record the airship menace from a British point of view.

One produced by Winox, a company which sold tonic wine, illustrates a grieving family at the bedside of a mother killed in an air raid, under the ironic inscription 'The Zeppelin Triumph'.

Another, produced for the Lord Roberts Memorial Fund Stamp Album, commemorates Reginald 'Rex' Warneford of the Royal Naval Air Service, who became the first British pilot to shoot down a Zeppelin when he downed *LZ 37* over Belgium on June 7, 1915.

a single dirigible. But Zeppelin increased production, building more than 80 over the next four years (numbered *LZ 26* to *LZ 114*), and further airships were built by the rival Schütte-Lanz company, so Germany had a unique weapon with sufficient range to carry out bombing raids over Britain and other enemy nations.

The first airship raid took place on London on May 31, 1915, when *LZ 38* dropped incendiary bombs over the side of its gondola. About 50 more raids followed over the course of the war, mostly at night.

Navigational and bombing accuracy were poor, but more than 500 people were killed, and the sinister silhouette of a Zeppelin, accompanied by the thumping of its Maybach engines, became a vision of terror for British civilians.

The Zeppelin menace began to recede when defensive measures improved. Ground batteries firing incendiary ammunition were augmented from February 1916 by Ranken darts dropped by fighter aircraft, which would pierce the skin of an airship and ignite.

Besides being used for supply and reconnaissance missions, Zeppelins also bombed Bucharest in Romania and Naples in Italy, although plans to attack Russia, Egypt and Malta all failed.

ABOVE: LZ 127 *Graf Zeppelin*, the ship which revived the company's fortunes, at Friedrichshafen

Post-war recovery

When the war came to an end there was a brief attempt to resume civilian airship services, but the Treaty of Versailles in 1919 specified that all existing craft had to be handed over to the allied nations as war reparations, and that no new large ones could be constructed.

Following the death of Count Zeppelin in 1917, he had been succeeded as company chairman by Dr Hugo Eckener, who had joined the company initially as a publicist and then a pilot. Eckener was determined to keep the company going, even though it temporarily had to resort to

ABOVE: Hugo Eckener kept the Zeppelin company alive through the lean 1920s following the death of its founder and Germany's wartime defeat

'Much of the commemorative mail carried on Graf Zeppelin's maiden transatlantic crossing in 1928 also bore the first dedicated Zeppelin stamps'

ABOVE: Cover carried on *Graf Zeppelin*'s first transatlantic flight from Friedrichshafen to the United States in October 1928, franked with Germany's special 4m airmail stamp and handstamped with a simple 'Airship LZ 127' oval cachet

BRITISH FAILURES

Britain had its own airship industry, although it was much less impressive and shorter-lived than Germany's.

The Royal Naval Air Service operated a fleet of small airships during World War I, mostly in the campaign against U-boat activity, and Zeppelins which were shot down provided British engineers with useful information about how they were built, enabling passenger craft to be refined after the war.

In 1919 the Royal Air Force's *R34* carried 31 people from Edinburgh to New York and back, completing the first transatlantic crossings by a rigid airship. But attempts to build on this success were ill-fated: in 1921 the *R38* broke up over Hull, with the loss of 44 lives.

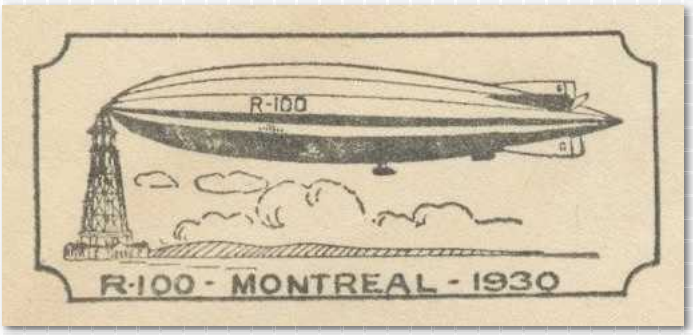
Three years later the Imperial Airship Scheme was established, with long-term aspirations to build new vessels to deliver mail to around the Empire.

R100 flew successfully to Canada in August 1930, albeit without carrying mail, but in October of the same year *R101*'s flight to India ended in tragedy when she crashed in France, killing 48 of her 54 passengers, including the Secretary of State for Air, Lord Thomson.

With *R100* immediately grounded and later sold for scrap, Britain's airship programme came to an abrupt end.

LEFT: Fiji stamp of 1998 illustrating Britain's *R34* airship, which completed a transatlantic crossing to new York as early as 1919

BELOW: Cachet used in Canada in 1930 to commemorate the successful transatlantic flight of *R100* to Montreal



ABOVE: Germany 1928 4m brown depicting a Zeppelin over the globe

ABOVE: 1930 2m blue with '1 Südamerika Fahrt' inscription

ABOVE: 1931 1m red with 'Polar-Fahrt 1931' overprint

ABOVE: 1933 2m with 'Chicagofahrt Weltausstellung 1933' overprint

manufacturing kitchen utensils.

An opportunity presented itself in 1923-24, when Zeppelin was contracted to build *LZ 126* for the United States Navy, which named her *USS Los Angeles*. The work kept the factory going until Germany was permitted to resume building airships for itself.

Graf Zeppelin

Eckener was thinking big, determined to restore Zeppelin to the limelight with a vessel which would impress the world and offer a non-stop passenger service across the Atlantic. The result would be *LZ 127 Graf Zeppelin*, named in honour of the company's founder (Graf being the German word for Count), the most successful airship of all time.

In a throwback to 1908, most of the RM2,000,000 required for her construction was raised by public subscription, but in all other respects *Graf Zeppelin* was in a different league.

Built in 1926-28, she was the largest flying object yet constructed, with a length of 236m (775ft), four times that of a modern Boeing 747 airliner. Five Maybach petrol engines gave her a top speed of 80mph, her gondola could sleep 24 passengers and, crucially, she had the capacity for up to 100,000 items of mail.

Her maiden transatlantic crossing left Friedrichshafen on October 11, 1928, and reached Lakehurst in New Jersey on ▷

ABOVE: The USA marked *Graf Zeppelin*'s Europe Pan-America Flight of 1930 by issuing three airmail stamps depicting the airship

October 15, despite violent storms which damaged her tail fabric, necessitating mid-air repairs.

Much of the commemorative mail she carried, handstamped and sorted on board, bore the first dedicated Zeppelin stamps: Germany's 2m blue (for airmail postcards) and 4m brown (for airmail letters) depicting her passing over the world.

Superficially the flight was a triumph, but a regular scheduled service between Germany and the USA seemed unachievable; *Graf Zeppelin*'s return trip was delayed by two weeks as more repairs were made, and her next transatlantic flight in 1929 had to be abandoned due to multiple engine failures soon after departure.

As a distraction from reality, Eckener arranged a series of long-distance demonstration flights. These gave the airship maximum publicity and prestige without having to adhere to a rigid timetable, and brought in much-needed revenue by carrying philatelic mail.

Round-the-World flight

The first of these demonstration flights was the Round-The-World Flight (Weltrundfahrt), officially starting and finishing in the USA

ABOVE: Cover from the 1929 Round-the-World Flight, carried by *Graf Zeppelin* from the east coast of the United States to the west coast, via Europe and Japan!

ABOVE: Cover from the 1930 Europe Pan-America Flight, posted in the USA and carried by *Graf Zeppelin* from Lakehurst to Lakehurst via Europe and Brazil, with circular 'Südamerikafahrt' and diamond-shaped 'Pan-America' cachets

MAIL FROM BRITAIN

When *Graf Zeppelin* paid several visits to Britain between April 1930 and July 1932, carrying mail from Germany, the General Post Office truculently refused to allow her to carry outgoing British mail.

Only with the start of the regular South America service in 1932 did Britain finally agree to entrust mail to a German airship.

The letter rate to Brazil was 3s 6d per half ounce, while postcards were rated at 1s 9d.

ABOVE: Cover of October 20, 1932, from London to Brazil via Berlin, carried between Friedrichshafen and Rio de Janeiro by *Graf Zeppelin*

LEFT: Cover from the 1931 Polar Flight, posted from Russia to Germany using two of the Soviet Union's set of commemorative stamps (in this case imperforate), cancelled on the icebreaker *Malygin* and transferred to *Graf Zeppelin* at their polar rendezvous

LEFT: Cover from Paraguay to Germany, carried on *Graf Zeppelin*'s regular transatlantic service in March 1932, with a franking including two of Paraguay's triangular airmail stamps depicting the airship, with special diamond-shaped cancellations

LEFT: Cover from Friedrichshafen to New York, carried by *Graf Zeppelin* on her triangular Chicagofahrt route in October 1933, franked with Germany's specially overprinted stamps

in deference to American commercial backing.

Graf Zeppelin left Lakehurst on August 8, 1929, heading east, and arrived back there 21 days, 5 hours and 31 minutes later, after refuelling stops at Friedrichshafen, Tokyo in Japan and Los Angeles in California.

It was the fastest circumnavigation of the globe yet, and the crew were treated to a tickertape parade along Broadway in New York while Eckener was invited to visit President Herbert Hoover at the White House.

Europe Pan-America flight

This feat was hard to follow, but almost as much excitement was generated by the Europe Pan-America Flight which started in May 1930.

Beginning at Friedrichshafen, Graf Zeppelin stopped at Seville in Spain before crossing the Atlantic to Pernambuco in Brazil, visiting Rio de Janiero, heading north to Lakehurst and making a return crossing to Europe.

The United States marked the occasion by issuing a set of three Zeppelin stamps, in denominations of 65c (the airmail postcard rate to Europe), $1.30 (the airmail letter rate to Europe) and $2.60 (for an airmail letter round trip, returning by steamship).

There were also commemoratives from other countries, with Germany overprinting its 1928 Zeppelin issue '1 Sudamerika Fahrt' and Bolivia and Argentina producing special overprints.

Polar flight

Graf Zeppelin's third great promotional venture was a three-day flight over the North Pole in July 1931, with both philatelic and scientific motives.

In a publicity stunt arranged with the USSR, there was a polar rendezvous with the Soviet icebreaker *Malygin*, during which the two vessels exchanged more than 50,000 items of mail. The airship also carried out aerial photography and meteorological and magnetic field measurements which had never before been possible.

The Soviet Union commemorated the event through a special issue of four stamps, with an illustration of the ship and airship being ▷

ABOVE: USA 1933 50c stamp marking *Graf Zeppelin*'s visit to the Century of Progress World's Fair in Chicago, illustrating her Friedrichshafen hangar on the right and the Chicago skyline on the left

Luftschiffbau Zeppelin LZ Friedrichshafen, Germany
No.2

To South America by Zeppelin

1934 Time Table of the airship „Graf Zeppelin".

Friedrichshafen	Pernambuco	Rio de Janeiro	Buenos Aires	Rio de Janeiro	Pernambuco	Friedrichshafen
5. 9.	6.12.	6.14.	6.15.	6.13.	6.14.	6.15.	6.19.
6.23.	6.26.	6.28.	6.30.	6.30.	7. 1.	7. 2.	7. 6.
7.21.	7.24.	7.26.	7.27.	7.25.	7.26.	7.27.	7.31.
8. 4.	8. 7.	8. 9.	8.10.	8. 8.	8. 9.	8.10.	8.14.
8.18.	8.21.	8.23.	8.24.	8.22.	8.23.	8.24.	8.28.
9. 1.	9. 4.	9. 6.	9. 7.	9. 5.	9. 6.	9. 7.	9. 11.
9.15.	9.18.	9.20.	9.21.	9.19.	9.20.	9.21.	9.25.
9.29.	10. 2.	10. 4.	10. 5.	10. 3.	10. 4.	10. 5.	10. 9.
10.13.	10.16.	10.18.	10.19.	10.17.	10.18.	10.19.	10.23.
10.27.	10.30.	11. 1.	11. 2.	10.31.	11. 1.	11. 2.	11. 6.

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ABOVE: 1934 timetable for Graf Zeppelin's South America service, showing 10-day round trips between Friedrichshaven and Rio de Janiero via Pernambuco, with linking aircraft flights to Buenos Aires

ABOVE: The gondola of *Graf Zeppelin* and a profile illustration of the vessel, on one of the two stamps issued by Germany in 1938 to mark the centenary of the birth of Ferdinand von Zeppelin

ABOVE: Brazil 1929 airmail stamp (showing the Brazilian aviator Alberto Santos-Dumont flying a dirigible in Paris in 1901) surcharged in 1931 for use on Zeppelin flights

ABOVE: One of Russia's 1930 pair celebrating *Graf Zeppelin*'s flight to Moscow that year

ABOVE: One of Italy's 1933 airmail set, showing *Graf Zeppelin* flying over Italian landmarks

'When the regular service between Germany and South America started in 1932, airmail continued to be a key generator of revenue'

watched by a polar bear, while Germany added a 1m red to its 1928 pair of Zeppelin stamps and overprinted all three with 'Polar-Fahrt 1931'.

South America service

Graf Zeppelin finally started a regular international service in 1932, between Germany and South America, terminating at Rio de Janeiro. She crossed to South America 18 times in 1932 alone, and would rack up 136 flights over the next five years.

Passengers paid premium prices, but only around 20 of them could be carried on each flight, along with a limited amount of high-value freight, so airmail continued to be a key generator of revenue. A flight cachet and a connecting cachet were applied to each item of mail, the design changing with each flight.

In October 1933 one return flight from Brazil to Germany was diverted to visit the Century of Progress World's Fair in Chicago. The USA was moved to issue a fourth Zeppelin stamp to mark the occasion, and Germany's 1928 set were overprinted once again, this time with 'Chicagofahrt Weltausstellung 1933'.

Shape of things to come

An avalanche of Zeppelin stamp issues had begun to appear in the early 1930s, with Brazil, Cyrenaica, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Paraguay, San Marino and Tripolitania among those offering their own take on the *Graf Zeppelin* experience.

After Adolf Hitler came to power in Germany in 1933, however, Zeppelins took a more sinister turn again. Against the wishes of Eckener, who was no Nazi and was increasingly sidelined, they became swastika-bedecked instruments of Nazi propaganda.

Two new, even larger airships were planned, the first of which was *LZ 129 Hindenburg*, launched in March 1936. One of her first duties was to be commandeered, along with *Graf Zeppelin*, to drop propaganda leaflets and broadcast political speeches following the reoccupation of the Rhineland by German troops.

Hindenburg

Slightly longer than *Graf Zeppelin*, Hindenburg had almost twice the volume, with accommodation on two decks within the hull, rather than in a smaller gondola.

Passengers could promenade

ABOVE: Cover from Liechtenstein to New York, carried on *Hindenburg*'s first transatlantic flight in May 1936, with a franking including Liechtenstein's new 1f stamp depicting the airship

ABOVE: The 360 surviving covers from the *Hindenburg* disaster, many of them badly charred, were sealed in glassine bags for onward delivery, and are now sought-after philatelic items

along each side, or visit the lounge, complete with its grand piano, or comfortable dining room. On the lower deck there was also a smoking room, pressurised to keep out any escaping gas, with a door steward to remind smokers to extinguish their cigars on leaving!

It was originally intended that the ship should be filled with helium, a safer alternative to hydrogen, but the United States held a monopoly on the gas and refused a request to export it.

Hindenburg completed her first flight to Rio de Janiero in April 1936, carrying 58kg of mail, and her first to New York in May, carrying more than 1,000kg and coinciding with the city's International Philatelic Exhibition. Germany issued new airmail stamps with values of 50pf and 75pf, depicting *Hindenburg* over the sea; she was also illustrated on an attractive 1f stamp from Liechtenstein.

Ten further trips were made to the United States in 1936, after which *Hindenburg* was refitted with nine further cabins to increase the passenger accommodation to 72 for the new season.

The fatal spark

It was on May 6, 1937, that the steady advance of prestigious international travel by airship went up in smoke.

When *Hindenberg* arrived at Lakehurst at 7pm, having flown over New York and then waited for a thunderstorm to pass, static electricity from the mooring mast created sparks which ignited either hydrogen or gasbag sealant. A strange light appeared at the stern, whereupon the ship burst into flames. Within seconds the entire vessel was ablaze and collapsing onto the ground.

Amazingly 62 of the 97 people on board escaped and ran to safety, some of them badly burned. But 35 were killed, along with one member of the ground crew.

Only 360 of the 17,609 items of mail were recovered, most of them charred. They were sealed in glassine bags for subsequent delivery, and remain gruesome collectables.

ABOVE: Germany's 1936 airmail stamps illustrated the new *LZ 129 Hindenburg* flying over the sea to North America

End of an era

Broadcast on radio and filmed for newsreels, the accident shattered public confidence in dirigibles and highlighted the stark truth that the world's airships had a poor survival record: 60 of the 161 built by 1937 had been destroyed by fire or structural damage. The loss of *Hindenburg* therefore marked the end of the golden age of the Zeppelins.

Graf Zeppelin was immediately grounded and decommissioned, and *LZ 130 Graf Zeppelin II*, which was in build at the time, never entered commercial service. In 1940 the commander of the Luftwaffe, Hermann Göring, ordered that they should be scrapped for salvage, their metal frames recycled to build more war planes.

For the majestic *Graf Zeppelin* in particular, after logging more than a million miles and generating more than 1,000 different flight covers and stamps, it was an ignominious end. ■

RIGHT: A 1977 stamp from Mali illustrating the moment *Hindenburg* burst into flames at Lakehurst in May 1937

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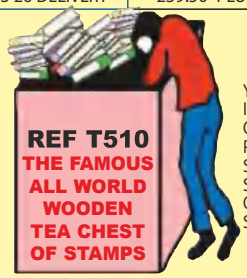

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Admirable qualities

With their array of plates, dies, papers, shades and flaws, the 1913-24 'Admiral' definitives of Rhodesia are among the most challenging issues in world philately

Report by John Winchester

One of the key developments in the 'Scramble for Africa' in the 1890s was the way in which Cecil Rhodes and his British South Africa Company gained control of Matabeleland and Mashonaland on the south bank of the Zambezi River, and expanded their influence to Barotseland and beyond on the north bank, creating what became known as Rhodesia.

In 1910 the existing definitive series depicting the arms of the company was replaced by a large-format series portraying King George V and Queen Mary, but the new king was keen to progress from these 'double heads' to a more traditional format. This gave the printers, Waterlow, the opportunity to produce an even more accomplished design in 1913.

The chosen image was a full-face portrait of the King in the informal uniform of an Admiral of the Fleet, and a single design was produced for 19 recess-printed values, ranging from ½d to £1.

Four low values were printed in one colour, from a single working plate, and 15 higher values in two colours, from separate head and duty plates.

The 'Admirals' were issued on September 1, 1913. They would dominate Rhodesia's post for more than a decade, and become extremely collectable.

'The Admirals would dominate Rhodesia's post for a decade'

MARKET VALUES

Lower values in the more common shades are generally affordable, often catalogued at under £10 mint, although perforation varieties are expensive. Higher values show huge variation in price but are mostly in three digits.

RIGHT: Rhodesia 1913-22 3d black and yellow (head die I), portraying King George V in Admiral of the Fleet uniform

Numerous printings of each value took place from 1913-24, identified by line and dot printers' marks in the sheet margins.

Three different head dies were engraved, distinguishable from each other by variations in the King's left ear and the top of his cap. Different duty plates can also be identified.

Most values exist perforated either 14 or 15, and many can be found imperforate between. Compound perforations of 14x15 and 15x14 were applied in some cases, and one early printing of the 1d was perforated 13½.

Some constant varieties are much sought after, such as the 'waxed moustache' flaw projecting from the left side of the King's facial hair.

One value was overprinted: when supplies of the ½d stamp ran out in 1917, it was necessary to surcharge the 1d locally, creating the so-called 'Livingstone Provisionals'.

Printings of 1922-24 were made on whiter paper with white gum, and shade varieties add a further level of interest.

When the BSAC finally relinquished its governmental power, the territory was divided.

Southern Rhodesia became a self-governing colony in 1923, continuing to make use of the Admiral design until 1931 but with a change of inscription. Northern Rhodesia became a crown colony, for which new designs were introduced in 1925. ■

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Post modern?

Everyone knows that British post offices aren't what they used to be. You might be surprised, however, by what some of them are

Report by John Wright

Post offices were once a permanent fixture in British village life, with a dedicated building which was often seen as the hub of the community. Today, they are much less conspicuous, and can turn up in the most unexpected places.

Many have simply been been closed. Ex-post offices have had a galaxy of reincarnations, including as numerous pubs and restaurants, 14 betting shops, five nightclubs, two mosques, one bridal wear shop and a pregnancy advice centre!

Others have been incorporated into other types of shop or business. Here, not only might the postmaster handle parcels, pensions, broadband services, travel money, passport applications, insurance and mortgages, but he might also cut your hair, save your soul, pull your pint, pull your teeth or even sell you dog food.

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ABOVE: A 1930s postman appears unsure of the status of Toy Post Office in Northern Ireland

Religious fervour

West Hampstead's post office in north London is now located inside St James' Church.

'The postmaster of the original sub-post office retired and the managing estate agent asked if there was any interest,' says the Sherriff Centre manager, Jane Edwards.

There was. She and Father Andrew Forshew-Cain successfully pitched a business plan to Post Office Ltd, and they began offering a services of a different kind in July 2014, with profits going to charity.

They were at pains to point out that 'last collection' should not be confused with 'collection plate': the congregation's letters are no substitute for donations.

Behind bars

Steve Marquis is both publican and postmaster at the Blue Bell Inn in Halkyn, Flintshire.

The Trip Advisor website ranks the pub number one in its list of 'things to do in Halkyn', and no wonder. One end of the L-shaped bar is a post office counter, so you can get your mail posted and then stay for a pint of locally brewed ales named Post Office Special Delivery or Paul's First Class.

Steve says the Blue Bell was the first pub in Wales to have this set-up, and one of the first in the UK.

'We have a nice rotation of cash going on. Chaps come in with their Amazon returns, take in money on

NOTHING NEW

Multipurpose shops incorporating post offices are nothing new. This cobble-faced house in Fulking, West Sussex, was a grocer's, draper's, baker's and post office all in one at the end of the Victorian era, and survived until 1995.

But it was perhaps best known locally for its name. Pronounce 'The Fulking Post Office' carefully, so as not to cause offence!

ABOVE: Father Andrew Forshew-Cain and West Hampstead Post Office, inside St James' Church

LEFT: Steve Marquis offers a pint of Post Office Special Delivery or Paul's First Class along with postal services at the Blue Bell Inn in Halkyn, Flintshire

ABOVE: The Udder Room coffee shop doubles as Barrow Post Office near Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk

'A sub-postmaster in Lancashire operates one post office in a pharmacy, one at a dentist and one in a pub'

one side of the bar and pay out on the other.' There's also plenty of passing trade driving along the A55 North Wales Expressway to Holyhead.

Steve and his wife Ness offer banking and posting services every day until 11pm, and they were even open on Easter Sunday. We wondered whether they needed to keep that quiet from the local clergyman. 'Oh, he was in here!'

Milking it

While helping farm owners turn an old barn into a country pursuits shop near Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk, in his role as a commercial manager for a building company, Phil Ratcliffe was struck by the potential of an adjacent abandoned cowshed.

It would make a great coffee shop, he thought, so he left his job, rented it from the famer, cleaned it out (obviously) and did it up. ▷

WORK OF FICTION

One of Britain's most idyllic small post offices is a fiction. Marsham Post Office, established by Steve Knight, is not in Marsham, Norfolk, but 76 miles away in his back garden in Halstead, Essex.

The winner of Shed of the Year award in 2012, it now basks under the title of the Colne Valley Postal History Museum, welcoming visitors on designated open days.

It boasts no fewer than 125 British postboxes (and some foreign ones too), along with 25 stamp vending machines, postmen's uniforms, post office artefacts and documents.

'We let people play with our stuff,' says Steve. 'They can use vending machines, cancel letters and handle the tools which crimp the lead seals shut on mailbags, for example.' The favourite item among children is a Victorian postman's hat, which they can try on.

It all developed from Steve's collection of rural postboxes, started 20 years ago. 'We have six pillar boxes on the street. Two are for Royal Mail and the others are sealed, but people still try to post letters in them.'

ABOVE: Post office in a pet shop in Wragby, Lincolnshire

ABOVE: Post office in a barber's shop Odiham, Hampshire

ABOVE: Post office in a pharmacy in Halton, Lancashire

The Udder Room, as it's now called, doubles as Barrow Post Office, as it also incorporates a post office counter.

A nice twist to the story is that the former postmaster of 37 years, Trevor, who was keen to stop operating out of his dining room, came to work for Phil, providing a welcome sense of continuity.

Pet project

Josie Exton is that dream of letter-posters the world over, a cheerful postmistress who doesn't even mind if you bring your dog with you. She's introduced a post office counter to the pet shop she's been running for eight years in Wragby, Lincolnshire.

It's an uncomplicated affair. 'The

JUST A FACADE

'Ennistymon Post Office' in County Clare, Republic of Ireland, is nothing more than a mural on a derelict building, depicting a throng in the doorway and people looking out of windows!

OLD RELIC

Sanquhar Post Office in Dumfriesshire is claimed to be the oldest post office in the world, having operated continuously since 1712, long before the advent of the mail coach, never mind the stamp.

The poet Robert Burns lived nearby, and the fireplace in the living room is said to have been constructed from elm trees he grew at Ellisland Farm.

Dr Manzoor Alam took over as postmaster in 2015, and plans to preserve and celebrate the history of the post office by opening a postal museum.

ABOVE: Lochbuie Post Office on the Isle of Mull, no longer offering postal services

ABOVE: Poyntzfield Post Office in Ross-shire, now claimed to be the country's smallest

ABOVE: Kylesku Post Office in Sutherland, until 2014 the smallest in Scotland

counter is a unit made up of two pieces of plastic, which my husband put together,' she says. But she unhesitatingly confides that it turned the business around, and it all runs smoothly when customers put their parcels on the scales, not on the pet counter.

She sells pet supplies rather than live animals, so she can't oblige any requests for sending budgies by airmail.

Close shave

When Kevin Molloy took on the post office in Odiham, Hampshire, four years ago, it was struggling and in danger of closing, so it required a new approach as well as a new sub-postmaster.

'I noticed there wasn't a barber's shop in the village, so I put that in too,' Kevin says.

As a result, you'll now find postal services offered inside Charlie's Barbers in the High Street.

Reaching out

The buzzword for post offices which no longer have a building to call their own is 'outreach'. If that sounds like a requirement for a postmaster with long arms, that's ▷

GONE FOREVER

Perhaps the ultimate example of the disappearing rural post office was that of Capel Celyn, an idyllically peaceful village in Gwynedd.

This photograph, taken in 1962, shows a girl riding her bike through the village, with the post office directly behind her. Three years later the Tryweryn valley was flooded, and the village with it, as the Llyn Celyn reservoir was created to provide water for the city of Liverpool.

The post office was among 18 properties submerged, including homes and farms, in what became a *cause-célèbre* for Welsh nationalists.

not far from the truth.

In Lancashire, for example, Michael Bowker operates Halton Post Office (under the auspices of Carnforth Post Office) in the village pharmacy, where his wife is the manager. But that;s not all. 'I've another in the dentist's, one in the back bar of a pub and two more in village halls,' he says.

The security arrangements are simple. 'Everything's packed up each day and brought back to the main post office.'

Small wonders

The kudos of being Britain's smallest post office is contested by various candidates in Scotland.

The rough blue shack that is the old Lochbuie Post Office on the Isle of Mull isn't really eligible, since it no longer offers postal services. After a six-mile hike along a remote track with breathtaking scenery, it's the only destination of interest except a castle. It's often unmanned, although tourists can help themselves to tea and cake, and pay via an honesty box.

Kylesku Post Office, a 6ft x 8ft shed in Esther Brauer's back garden in a remote fishing village in Sutherland, is now an ex-post office too, because she retired in 2014 at the age of 82, after 61 years as sub-postmistress. She told BBC News that she used to handle five or six letters on a busy day, and sold about 100 stamps a year.

That puts Margaret and John McDowall in the running for the prize, with their 10ft x 8ft shed which serves as a post office in Southend on the Mull of Kintyre.

But there is competition from Mary Finlayson, whose Poyntzfield Post Office in Jemimaville, Ross-shire is another shed, the same size. 'When there are two people inside, it's crowded,' one regular customer told us.

Positively large and luxurious in comparison was Blaenwaun Post Office in Carmarthenshire, once the smallest in Wales at 16ft by 10ft. Built in 1936, it was run by the same family as the Lamb Inn across the road, and customers who arrived when everyone was in the pub could press a button which rang a bell behind the bar.

Disused from the 1960s, the post office was rebuilt in 1992 at St Fagans National History Museum near Cardiff. ■

ABOVE: Blaenwaun Post Office, once Wales's smallest, has been recreated as an exhibit at a heritage museum

'The former sub-postmistress in a remote Scottish fishing village said she used to have to deal with five or even six letters on a busy day'

REMEMBER THIS?

Royal Mail issued an appealing set of four stamps illustrating Sub Post Offices in 1997. They featured Haroldswick Post Office in Shetland (20p), Painswick Post Office in Gloucestershire (26p), Beddgelert Post Office in Gnynedd (43p) and Ballyroney Post Office in County Down (63p).

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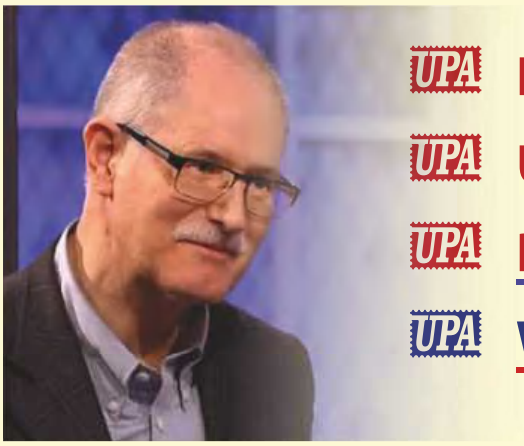

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It's Not Easy Creating a 26,510 Lot Auction

Andrew giving The Kay Goodman Lecture GBPS Leeds 2015
To Join the GBPS visit the website: *http://www.gbps.org.uk*

The lengths we go to creating this auction for You... Just How is it done?

It was hardly a question I was expecting, but I was happy to answer. The occasion: I was honoured to be invited to give the Kay Goodman Lecture at the Great Britain Philatelic Society National Philatelic Congress Leeds August 2015 … but there was just one small problem – as many of you may know … I am passionate about our hobby – *but I don't actually collect stamps* – however my company does handle more than most!

AT the tender age of 18 I took the decision to stop collecting when I entered the trade – reasoning that if I continued to collect and was fortunate enough to have my own company … I might end up with a wonderful collection but No money to pay the mortgage … so, never being seduced to 'carry on collecting' what was I to talk about at the Congress?

Expecting something of a 'grilling' with the subject 'Philatelic Auctions' I entered the 'Lion's Den', a good hundred passionate collectors at the Art Deco Queens Hotel Leeds. A good hour of non-stop questions later, I'm not sure why nobody asked me why I'm so passionately against huge 'Buyer's Premiums' but one collector expressing amazement at the size of our auctions asked how we manage to source so many stamps?

To be honest sometimes we amaze ourselves – but ultimately it is all about 'mind-set' and belief. You see, unlike other auctions (and dealers) I take the simple view that if something is not selling it must be too expensive otherwise you, the collector, would have bid for it and won it at auction … Therefore, when we present 20,000+ lots with a value of £1.8 million … and 10,000 lots sell to almost 2,000 different bidders/collectors world-wide … we have 10,000+/- unsold lots which must be too expensive – so we reduce them all in estimate (and reserve) according to how long they've been unsold and (unlike other auctions) in your next auction we tell you how many times they have been unsold so you can work out how much these stamps have been reduced, and just how much of a bargain they have become - this forms the increasingly tempting nucleus of the next auction.

It follows that whilst one auction progresses towards closing date we have just 3 months to locate and describe at least another 10,000 more lots. 'Pouring' in 10,000 newly sourced and described new lots is no small task. It takes a Team of 3 or 4 different describer-valuers/buyers combing the UK (and abroad) … then breaking/describing collections with the help of a further 3 or 4 different describers. Bearing in mind that none of us is becoming any younger … you may imagine that we have describer/valuers situated all over the United Kingdom including a key full-time experienced team member located in London participating at all of the major London Stamp Auctions. In our 60th £2,083,177.00 value celebratory auction somehow the team has managed to source and describe more than 13,000 new auction lots. With Christmas break intervening we'll be lucky to manage that feat again in our 61st auction.

So where do all the stamps come from? Offering the U P A Unique Reducing-Estimate System is not for the faint-hearted. Over the past 15 years we've offered more than 1,000,000 lots with valuable collector-owned items on a commission basis and sold stamps up to £90,000 each, and collections up to £600,000 – but to do so with lower priced material logistically would be a nightmare … so it's a unique combination of valuable material upon a commission basis, lower priced material which we may have sourced and owned plus collections purchased at auction far and wide all appropriately described and lotted to suit collectors (although dealers worldwide still participate too by winning lots for their own clients). Ownership of a substantial majority of auction lots permits us to do things others dare not do … such as our controversial **NO-BUYER'S PREMIUM** policy saving collectors up to 27% … which in turn permits us to guarantee every lot … and to offer the **Unique U P A Reducing-Estimate System** etc etc

Hopefully we now have in excess of 20,000 different lots ready to create the next auction by the time our 'deadline' has arrived. Now the 'Admin/Back Office' Team takes over … 100's of carefully organised hours' work go into creating the complimentary 20,000+ lot free auction catalogue that I'm hoping you will request … imagine how much time and effort go into creating 62 photo-plates comprising 3,511 different stamp images, the 'data-crunching' to present you with 370 pages of painstakingly presented descriptions but here's something you may have noticed but not actually noted …

Please turn to page 69

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☛ *Continued from Page 61:* **The lengths we go to to creating this auction for You...**

Digital scanners are a wonderful invention but still no substitute for the human eye. Even though we use a £5,000 daylight calibrated scanner …

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…. So now you may know the reason why the stamps you win actually look like the stamps you saw in the auction catalogue … which may be something that you have to be careful of when bidding in other auctions with fuzzy low quality images … usually there's a reason why collectors compliment us by cutting out our stamp images … now you know why

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Of course, I can hear you saying, "none of this comes cheap" … and it is true. Just to print, post/distribute 6,250 physical catalogues to collectors like you, all over the world costs £50,000 **each auction**. Now consider that an additional 1,500 collectors/dealers globally view each U P A auction catalogue "virtually" (nice word that) on-line – which makes it all the more amazing that 90% of bidders are successful. Just try comparing that with other stamp auctions – especially public stamp auctions that only have 300 different bidders … and unlike U P A cannot/**will not guarantee each lot**.

Possibly, just possibly, there's one tiny question hanging unspoken in the back of your mind … and that is …

"how can any auction sustain such high quality production costs and be more competitive than others?"

… and the reason why can only be attributed to '**scale**' … when you offer Massive Philatelic Choice in a **Unique Reducing Estimate System** it permits the collector to benefit from the most cost-effective system of handling stamps in the industry … put simply you benefit from the fact that **simply everything sells** – compare this to the stamp fair or dealer where you return time and time again to see nothing but the same old chestnuts offered for sale … so that in time you stop going back. This is the reason why - if you have nigh on 2,000 different bidders (90% successful) that you will see massive NEW choice each time you participate and why each time (I hope) you will wish to participate in supporting this unique collector-friendly auction system …

Finally, and I've never, in 43 years full-time philately, ever seen this written about before … collectors have the chance to determine / set values for themselves. Let me explain, here's an example – I saw a fine used £5 orange advertised recently for £7,500 on blued paper and another on white paper for £3,500. Only one example was illustrated … not the one at £7,500. The only thing you know is that a stated to be fine used £5 orange on blued paper is being offered to you for £7,500. You simply must see a picture, better still scans (for this value of front and back) to determine how well-centred the actual stamp is, is it creased – does it have any trace of crayon mark, are there any short perfs, pinholes or creases … is it guaranteed … ?

The problem with 'fixed' price expensive stamps is that one stamp may be worth £7,500 but one price doesn't suit all … hence the condition of another may appear fine but is it? What is a fair price? In stamps – unless truly an 'industry-standard' unmounted mint 1948 £1 Silver Wedding that everybody understands the standard expected … each stamp commands its own price / value which is why I urge you to seek comparisons so that the variations on scarce expensive stamps such as heavy / light postmark are reflected in the price you ultimately pay … so bidding for such stamps at auction is a good way for you to factor in condition into the winning price you, or somebody else pays …

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10. **I am a collector of long-standing, Andrew, and I still find your stamp tips most helpful and informative. Many thanks for sharing your knowledge** (AB B. Hill UK)
11. **Thank you – very honest of you – but I've come to expect that from U P A!** (KB Sheffield)
12. **May I say, as a new customer, the catalogue is magnificent and the pleasure it gave me in scouring through it will only be matched by my delight at receiving the stamps at such a good price – and of course the expectation of receiving the next catalogue in due course** (KS Spalding)
13. **I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the pleasure I have enjoyed from U P A and the hard work you all do to produce such a work of art** (AE Wirral)
14. **I was very pleased with the results of my bids at the last two auctions. Have been tempted to come up with a much increased number of bids this time. Very impressed with the catalogue** (DM Norfolk)
15. **I received my parcel with my winning bid of wildings. I was over the moon as it was my first time at doing an Auction like this. I was quite surprised I actually won anything. I will be so looking forward to the next auction** (GS Northants)
16. **I love your catalogues, but since I only collect xxxx viewing it on-line works great for me. I wish you continued success. I love your business model** (AC USA)
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…Now, I can just hear you saying "so what Andrew, what's the big deal?"

It may be more important than meets the eye. The point is that collectors like you are helping me to prove that the principle of **no extra charges** I have established over the past 60 auctions in 15 years may be the fairest and best deal for Y O U; and crucially this principle has been proven sustainable for collectors and auctioneer… so that at U P A there really is another way for collectors to win the stamps they want, at prices they are prepared to pay in auction, or even lower.

Some other auctions may contend that stamps in their auction are estimated cheaper than stamps in mine. Of course with U P A auctions of up to 28,350 lots that is almost certainly bound to be true in certain situations, but naturally one has to compare 'like for like' and stamps are notoriously subjective. We don't profess to be perfect, and when we get it wrong our policy is to rectify with good grace and generosity - but our describers are instructed to describe faults. Naturally if those auctions charge 'buyer's premiums' then some stamps on a 'like' for like' basis, one could argue, should be estimated lower…

…So often collectors, for example, e-mail us pictures of stamps that they have won on the internet… and ask me why the stamp they have won is half the price than another offered in a major auction or at retail? Almost invariably the reason why boils down to condition, or being a fiscally cancelled example, repaired or similar and sadly on occasion even being an out and out fake. All that glistens in internet auction bargains is seldom gold…

…However, if there is ONE thing over any other that I have learned from internet auctions such as eBay…

…However, if there is ONE thing over any other that I have learned from internet auctions such as eBay – that is the principle of **NO extra charges** has become firmly fixed in our psyche… and certainly it is in mine. **Collectors do not want to spend their hard-earned money on extras such as buyer's premiums (BP), credit card charges, postage and even insurance. *Collectors want to spend their money on stamps.*** Transparency is king, which is why I sometimes find it annoying having to find the 'buyer's premium' – buried, hidden in the 'small print'

By now, I would hope that more than half the philatelic world would know about the **Unique U P A Reducing Estimate System.** Imagine this scenario. You attend a stamp fair. You spot the same stamp you saw offered by the same dealer a year ago – offered at the same price, in the same (slightly tattier) stockcard. When you first saw that stamp you were interested. You even vouchsafed a slightly lower price which was firmly rebuffed with "that's the price". That stamp could still be sitting there for sale at the same price two years later…

Now, imagine finding that stamp offered in a U P A auction. If still unsold it would be 11% cheaper in the next auction, a further 12% cheaper in the following auction, a further 13% cheaper in the 4th auction which would be 12 months after you saw that stamp offered… so an originally £100 estimated stamp would now be estimated at just £68 and crucially a bid could win this (£100) stamp at reserve of just £54 as U P A reserve lots at 20% lower than estimate… (just once further unsold the estimate would be £59 and the reserve only £47) …it's not hard to see why stamps sell at your price at U P A

Combine this reason with **paying NO extra whatsoever** and you can see the reason why so many collectors and some of the largest dealers in the world bid and win stamps at U P A auctions.

Now, dial in *MassivePhilatelicChoice* – with 28,350 lots in my last £2,083,177 auction …up to 20 x more lots in ONE U P A auction than many other auctions and you can see the reason why 90%+/- of collectors and some dealers are successful – YES, Y O U have every chance of success, arguably more chance of success than bidding by post in a public stamp auction and not risking paying over the top backed by a total No Quibble Refund Guarantee so it is hard to lose or make a mistake bidding in my U P A auctions.

For a while now I have been puzzling over how to reward your loyalty? Logically, rather than offer some gimmick free postage enticement, can we afford to lose £4+ per client per auction in postal/delivery charges you have paid us to deliver your stamps? Bearing in mind my belief that collectors should **ONLY** pay for stamps they want and **NOTHING** else – it may not sound much but when you multiply £4 by approaching 2,000 deliveries per auction – we are talking about £8,000+/- for each U P A auction… can we afford to lose this?

Hmm. Well perhaps we can if we **invest free shipping** as a bonus thank you for your loyalty. There must be at least 1,000 collectors and some dealers who bid in each and **every** U P A auction. So I've come to the conclusion that **if we offer to reward your loyalty FOR bidding in each one of my auctions** – then to encourage others to bid in ***every*** U P A auction we can afford to sacrifice postal charges averaging £4 per client and up to a £10 limit per auction per client for those winning higher value lots, PLUS include **FREE** Insurance in transit. So, until further notice, under beta test, as a reward for your loyalty – commencing from the next auction you bid in **you will pay NO** postage/delivery charge – and provided you can bid in the next 5 out of 6 U P A auctions (so you can miss bidding in ONE auction out of SIX) you will only pay for your stamps and

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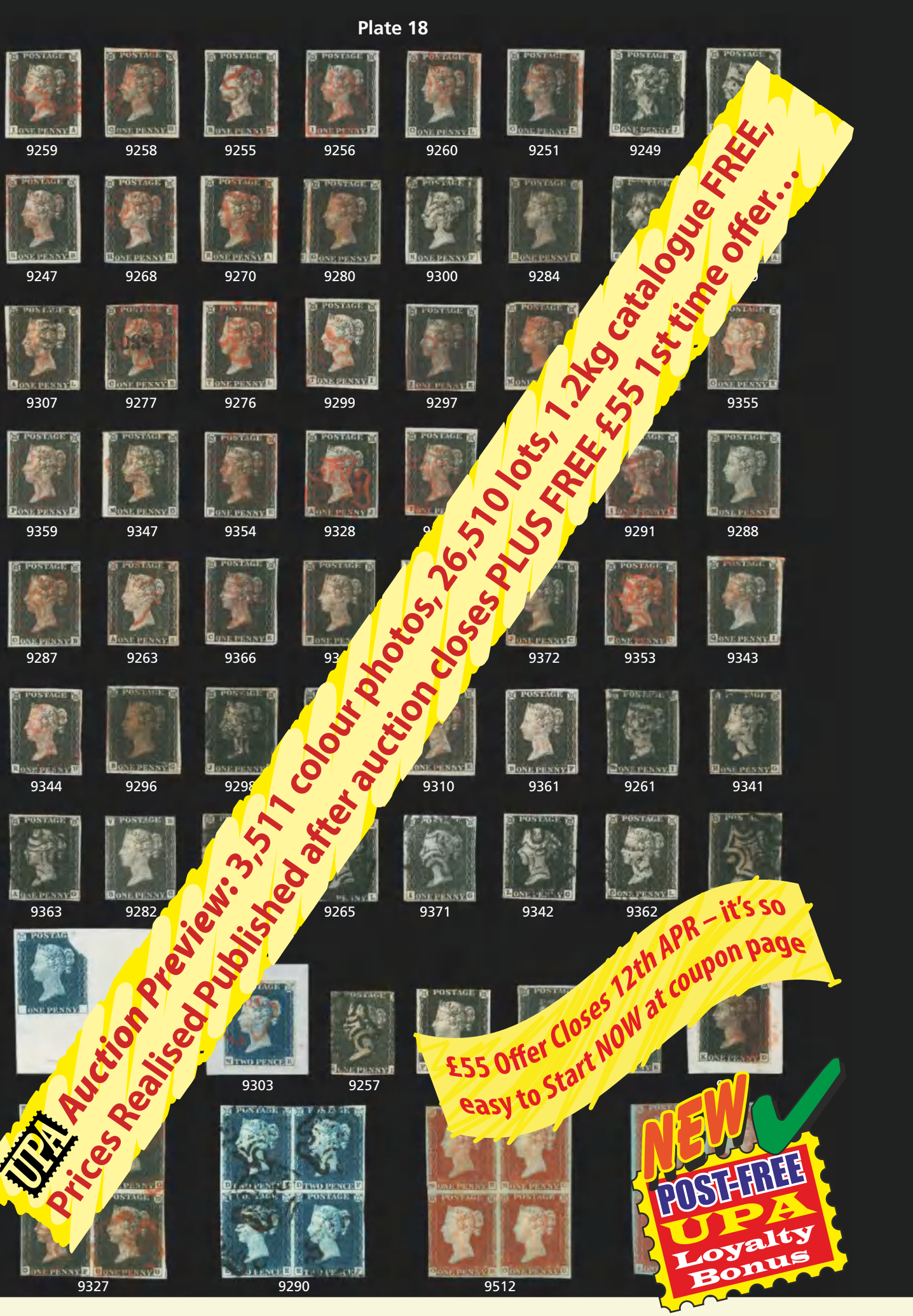

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The Collectors' Secret Weapon

Unsolicited Testimonials:

18 You were kind enough to send me a copy of "TIPS OF THE TRADE". I have enjoyed reading this, and I have learned more about philately than I ever knew previously (RW Cheshire)

19 I received your 58th catalogue. Congratulations with such an amazing catalogue! It is a happy event to leaf through that document (PL Netherlands)

20 You have provided an excellent service, and the catalogue has always been a joy to savour (HP Wales)

21 Your enthusiasm for our hobby does you great credit (GN Worcs)

22 Following your immediate refund for my returned lot, I write to say a big Thank You not only for the immediate 'no quibble' refund but for the beautiful condition of my successful lot and the general speed of despatch and of response. A really great service and a marvellous catalogue! I was also very pleasantly surprised to have been refunded a bit more than had been charged for lot …. and postage. Was this intentional? …. U P A response: YES, we were sorry to have got it wrong (AC Oxon)

23 You are a first rate operation, I hope to do business with you in the future (JD USA)

24 It was, as they say, a pleasure doing business with you! (RG Surrey)

25 I was very impressed with the very good service and also the first time buyer discount – thank you. Hope to do business with you again (BN B Stortford)

26 May I say I am delighted with the stamps and the service I have received so far. Your catalogue is fantastic. I have dealt with other stamp auction houses in the past, but yours is head and shoulders above them. I eagerly await your next catalogue (RS Edinburgh)

27 I would like to thank you for your exemplary service. Be assured that I have and will in future recommend you as a supplier (AI Glos)

28 Please find attached my bids. I was very impressed with my purchases from the previous auction professionally handled (SU Lowestoft)

29 May I say how much I admire your way of doing business, especially the auction catalogue … your catalogue is a winner! I particularly like your reducing estimates feature as I am sure everybody else does (PH Kent)

30 Your latest wonderful auction catalogue has arrived, and it beats all previous records. What a cornucopia it is! And so very tempting (RN Chipping)

31 Thank you for the payment, I did not expect it so quickly, I just wish everyone was as easy to deal as you have been!! (RC UK)

32 Meant to write this earlier but have not had time. Your stamp tips are terrific (MS US)

33 I look forward to doing more business with you in the future … (MD Chester)

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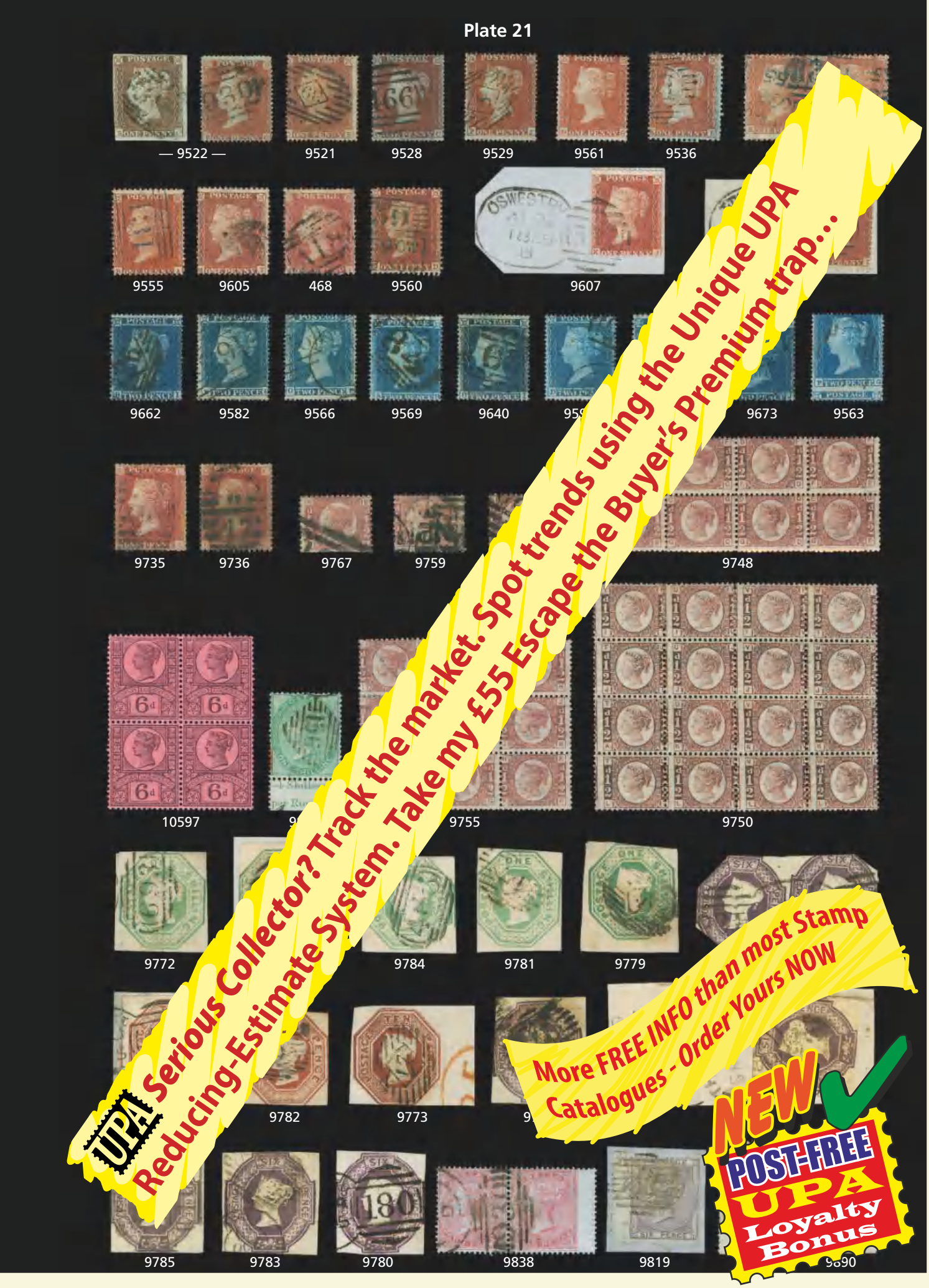

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Delivering Your Dream Collection…

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MY favourite stamp is probably the same as my wife's – the GB PUC £1. Just take a look at the design / engraving – and in single monochrome – utterly magnificent. Strictly speaking I should say the 1d black – it's iconic and an amazing work of design/art in the first place as this stamp represents in communication terms the 'Apple i-phone' of its time – also barring damage to the actual paper – the 1d black is virtually indestructible … the colour is so 'fast' that you can soak a 1d black in a 1/10 part solution of 'milton/water' (nappy bleach) … the paper will turn white but the black will remain unaffected. This is the reason why you sometimes see a magnificent used 1d black but the paper is too white – simply it has been left too long in bleach … over-white paper will actually lower value … as with most things it is a question of degree …

Put Your 1st £55 FREE towards a high value?

Reader: That's all very interesting Andrew, but where is this going ..?

When I was, theoretically, growing up (in my teens) you could ask me the retail price of virtually any British commemorative set (think 'special issue' for the indoctrinated) and I would know it as black is to white. But nowadays, in value terms, what is black and what is white? – courtesy perhaps more than anything of the internet … so much is 'grey' and blurred around the edges … that 'retail' price depends more than ever upon the quality of what is being retailed and no longer does one price fit all … Just search on-line for an 'Agatha Christie' booklet – don't look at what sellers wish for – look at reality – click 'completed' – far fewer do … actual 'sold' prices can be 50% of each other

… now look at fixed retail prices, consider the postally valid 'face value' and finally the 'catalogue' value … you could be forgiven for throwing your arms up in the air. The point is making sense of it all … not just for 'bog standard' commodity price items but for stamps with character – generally pre-QEII and pre 1950 / 1940 classic stamps of which they're not making any more (excepting on-line auction offers of modern fakes/reproductions) … so it follows that if you can be confident of just ***four*** things: **1**. the supplier is real and reputable (and internet ratings only tell part of the story), **2**. the quality is as described, **3**. the price is realistic against comparison, **4**. You have a reliable guarantee … then that's the way for you to go …

But to realise your dream maybe there's another way for you to go so that … turning philatelic dreams into reality may cost you less than you think

I don't believe in 'one price fits all different qualities' or grades. Life doesn't work that way, otherwise we'll be upgrading 'in between' stamps to higher grades – which is an accusation often levelled at retailers. Even with up to 26,510 different lots each stamp/cover/collection in our auction is individually described and valued.

NO, the solution is in accepting that if something does not sell it is not worth the price that is being asked … so the answer for you is to utilise my unique **'U P A Reducing Estimate System'**. I can't take any plaudits for coming up with this system – it took me 20+ years in our philatelic industry to realise that unless one was unscrupulous most dealers profit lies in the stock presented in front of you – and if it is not selling then they will have no money to buy new stock to show you … so I decided I didn't want to spend my life looking at stamps not selling … it did take a little 'grit' to see if my ideas would work … but

… Now 60 quarterly auctions and 15 years later this is the reason why realising your Dream Collection Can Cost You Less than You Think … Join 2,128 Collector Colleagues using the unique 'U P A Reducing Estimate System' in our last auction – read the testimonials – Start NOW – Request your catalogue at any £55 FREE coupons page to receive your 1st £55 Winnings FREE so you can test this U P A auction without even spending a single penny

P.S. You walk into Marks & Sparks. You are looking for a nice jacket on the rail. There's one priced at £100. Above it is a sign saying if this jacket is not sold today it will be £89 tomorrow … so you decide the discount is worth waiting for … next day you return and there's a sign saying if this jacket is not sold today it will be £78 tomorrow – Do you buy it now, before somebody else pips you to the post or let it go another day? Multiply this by 26,510 items with 100's of lots you're probably missing from your collection … and **ALL** offered with **NO BUYER'S PREMIUM + GUARANTEED**

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Independent On-line Testimonials may be viewed on-line at STAMPBOARDS.com … Topic thread: **Anyone dealt with Universal Philatelic Auctions, UK?**

1. "My dealings with UPA have been quick and pleasant. I especially liked the £55 discount, which I wrongly thought was some kind of gimmick. That was a nice little gift."

2. "Just had my first dealings with UPA this month. Absolutely delighted. Won some lovely items at decent prices (no rip off premium), got 55 quid discount as a first time bidder, and they let me pay up in instalments. Definitely the most user friendly auction experience I've come across so far."

3. "I've been bidding in UPA's auctions almost for nearly 10 years now, never had a problem. As they've grown larger (both in number of lots sold and number of bidders in each auction) the time taken to process each auction has grown, but I've always received any purchases within 10 days of the close."

4. "I'll chip in here as well and say they are a decent firm. Not only is their £55 discount off your first order a decent one (I know someone who got a great stamp almost for free in the last auction) but they also have a 'no quibble' guarantee. When I won something last year that wasn't as described it was refunded immediately."

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Presenting arms

All the regular issues for the Colombian state of Cundinamarca, from 1870 to 1904, featured the national coat of arms. Shaking things up were some 1883 provisionals

Report by Adrian Keppel

As a mere department of modern Colombia, Cundinamarca is not internationally well-known today. But it was central to the foundation of the country, and indeed it is where you will find its capital, Bogotá.

When the United States of Colombia was established in 1861, following years of civil war and constitutional upheaval, it was as a federation of nine sovereign states. Each retained the right to issue its own postage stamps, and Cundinamarca duly entered the catalogue in 1870.

Its first issue was a pair of imperforate lithographed stamps, a 5c pale blue and a 10c scarlet. The two elaborate designs were similar, though not identical, depicting the Coat of Arms of Colombia, a condor perched atop a shield.

In the same vein, new values of 20c, 50c and 1p were introduced from 1877-82, with the 10c design also being amended, all with different frames surrounding the Coat of Arms. Some of the stamps exist on either laid or wove paper.

Arguably the most intriguing feature of these stamps is the reprints which were officially sanctioned later. By this time the plates had been defaced, and remnants of the lines used to cancel them are to some extent still visible on the reprints, making them readily distinguishable from the originals.

Civil war and financial difficulties led to a range of provisional issues in 1883. Printed on paper of various colours with different frames, their designs simply comprise typeset text, including the value, with a postmaster's signature.

Four values exist, of 10c, 50c, 1p and 2r. The latter (the only Cundinamarca stamp denominated in reales rather than centavos and pesos) is by far the most valuable item in Cundinamarca philately, although no postally used examples are known and it remains unclear whether is was issued.

Adding further intrigue is the existence of one copy on paper with a Flowers watermark, whereas all others are unwatermarked, and another (thought to be a proof printing) without either a postmaster's signature or denomination of value.

Perhaps unsurprisingly given the lack of reliable information about them, these provisional issues are not catalogued by Stanley Gibbons.

Cundinamarca issued a new definitive set of six in 1885, this time comprising five values with the same Coat of Arms design.

A year later, the United States of Colombia became the Republic of Colombia, but in spite of greater centralisation its constituent states retained their postal independence.

Cundinamarca's most extensive series came in 1904, with 10 values ranging from 1c to 1p, with the Coat of Arms once again set in differing frames. For the first time, some of these stamps were perforated.

It was a final hurrah. Soon afterwards, the states stopped issuing their own stamps and began using those of the republic. ■

ABOVE: 1877-82 Cundinamarca 1p deep brown definitive, depicting the Coat of Arms of Colombia

LEFT: Uncertainty surrounds the status of the 1883 2r provisional

'Reprints of the first issue were officially sanctioned, but they were printed from plates which had been defaced, so they are readily distinguishable from the originals'

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

SCOT 8 — RARE ANTI NAZI COVER: Commemorating the brave Shetland Islanders, who risked their lives in World War II, shipping supplies, arms, saboteurs and agents to Nazi Occupied Norway. Known as the Shetland Bus; the return journey was an escape route for refugees from the Gestapo. The rare cover of which only 75 are known to exist bears two Hildasay Shetland Island map stamps, with red Hildasay cachet, plus Royal Mail Machin issue postmarked with Baltasound Shetland pmk. Dated 15/5/12 and re-cancelled by the Royal Mail with Scalloway Shetland Isl. Ship postmark dated 17/5/12. Seldom offered for sale Price..... £18.

UK. 84 GREAT BRITAIN — Royal Mail Elusive Mount Pleasant Sorting Office Cover. Issued to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of the GPO Mount Pleasant Office, officially opened on 30/8/1889, on the site of Coldbath Prison. Once acknowledged as the largest post sorting office in the world, it continues to handle millions of postal items daily. Only 100 of this important cover were ever produced. Bearing the iconic Machin stamp pmkd. With "double circle" Royal Mail Official Mount Pleasant pmk. Dated 30/8/14. Offered in superb condition £7.50

B98 BOLIVIA — A specialised collection of Bolivian Stamps ranging from early and older stamps to more recent. Containing mint & used with many better overprinted and engraved stamps, 100s of different Bolivian stamps. The fine collection — Price £15

E 40. EIRE. - The elusive cover commemorating the centenary of the Ireland Home Rule Act of 1914; granting the whole of Ireland Home Rule. The act was postponed for the duration of World War I. and subsequently never enacted; vital to complete any collection of Ireland postal history. Only sixty of these covers are known to exist. The cover bears a green Irish stamp with double rimmed Belfast Royal Mail pmk. Dated 18/9/14 in combination with an Eire map stamp with "Home Rule for tire" squared cachet in blue. — Price £14.50

CH17. GB WORLD WAR I — Sir Winston Churchill World War I, Commem. Cover. The Centenary Cover which was a limited edition of only 100 covers, commemorated the spiriting away of the UK's Naval Fleet from Portland Base to Scapa Flow, in the Orkneys on 28/7/1914. Churchill's pragmatic first action of World War I. The cover bears the special Churchill, Royal Mail commemorative, pmkd. With Royal Mail Maritime Scapa Flow Orkney Illustrated pmk. Dated 28/7/14. — Price £9.75

AH92. AUSTRIA/HUNGARY & BOSNIA - A superb stamp collection. Noted, Bosnia Austro-Hungarian military post stamps of 1900 (these are offered for sale "as is" without guarantee), they form part of a larger collection of genuine Austria & Hungary with mint and used stamps. If all the stamps were genuine the catalogue value would be over £550. But some stamps may be faux. Offered "as is" — Price..... £21

SA37 PANAM CANAL- Impressive Cover Commemorating the Centenary of the opening of the Panama Canal. Superbly Illustrated with Panama Canal Map and Quote by — W. H. Taft. Taft served as Secretary of War under Theodore Roosevelt and supervised the building of the Canal; he later became 27th President of the USA. The cover was a restricted issue of only 100. It bears a USA ship stamp tied to the cover with small purple cachet inscribed "Zona del Canal de Panama" also British stamp used in combination with Royal Mail ship and bi-plane Southampton pmk. 15/8/14. — Price £14

RU46. RUSSIA- A superior collection of the stamps of Russia; strength in Soviet Union Issues with multitude of thematic subjects. Several hundred different Russian stamps (Miniature sheets noted) — Price £15

HRH72. KING EDWARD VIII- Great Britain K.E. VIII special commemorative cover. The scarce cover commemorates the 120th Anniv. of the Birth of K.E. VIII, quoting the famous abdication speech. "I found it impossible to carry the heavy burden of responsibility and to discharge my duty as King, as I would wish, without the help and support of the woman I love." From a severely restricted world-wide issue of only 60 covers. The cover bears the K.E.VIII Royal Mail commemorative with first day of issue Royal Family Tree Postmark dated 2/2/12. Unusually the cover war re-posted on 23/6/14 and cancelled with the official Royal House of Windsor Arms pmk. The cover also bears the complete British Original K.E.VIII set of 1936 definitive stamps, tied to the cover with boxed purple cache, inscribed "King Edward VIII GPO postage stamp Issue September 1936" We offer this important and valuable cover for sale.....Price £24.50

H54. ISLE OF HILDASAY - Scarce China related cover commemorating the 70th Anniv. of the Dixie Mission. The cover depicts Mao Tse Tung and American soldiers in 1944. Inscribed in English and Chinese the cover unusually bears a combination of Royal Mail and Shetland island stamps; bearing a Shetland £1 stamp depicting Mao Tse Tung with red Hildasay Island Cachet in combination with Royal Mail postage stamp pmkd. with official Royal Mail penguin pmk. at Unst (Britains most northerly post office) on 22/7/14. Only 60 of the Dixie mission cover where ever known to exist & seldom offered for sale Price..... £13.50

M884. MEXICO A superb accumulation of only unmounted mint Mexican stamps, including sheets, multiples, blocks and singles. Well over 400 unmounted mint Mexican Stamps and several miniature sheets. Many older beautifully engraved unmounted mint stamps, all genuine, with a catalogue value of approx. £200. — Price only .....£29 the lot.

GER15. HELIGOLAND - A valuable cover for the centenary of the battle of Heligoland. This was the first Naval Battle and first British Naval victory of World War I. Superbly Illustrated depicting the German cruiser SMS Coln. The battle of Heligoland ended with 3 German cruisers and 1 destroyer being sunk by the British. The cover bears a Heligoland stamp with German Cross cachet inscribed "Deutches Reich — Heligoland" also a British stamp with Lions and Crown London Pmk. with the centenary date of 20/8/14. Originally 100 covers existed, but mostly in collectors hands they are rarely available for sale. Recommended at our price of £18.50

WL82 WEIGHTLIFITNG— An unusual thematic collection of weightlifting stamps, including mint and used stamps in blocks and singles; many better and elusive stamps noted, including the scarce Greek Olympic weightlifting champion and medal winner, Leonidas Sampanis, Sampanis was found to have cheated by taking drugs. His medal was withdrawn and the special Greek Sampanis postage stamps were withdrawn from sale over night. The scarce Sampanis drug cheat stamp is only one in this specialist weightlifting collection of well over 100 stamps. The entire collection — Price £14.25

SC17 SCOTLAND — Important and historic cover for the 700th anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314; superbly illustrated with a scene of Robert the Bruce at Bannockburn. The cover bears the Royal Mail, Robert The Bruce commemorative stamp issue tied with official Royal Mail Edinburgh Illustrated pmk. Dated 24/6/2014 — exactly 700 years to the day of the historic event, Only 100 of this important Scottish cover exist Price £9.50

SC18 SCOTLAND - A political cover for the Scottish Independence referendum; one of the biggest events in Scottish history; the referendum gave the option to over four million Scots to vote for independence. The cover bears both Scottish & Royal Mail UK stamps. Pmkd. with Scottish official pmk. dated 18/9/14 (The referendum date) Although over four million people voted barely 100 of this scarce cover were ever produced, surely making this one of the scarcest of all Scottish commemorative covers. — Price ... £13

D30 GERMANY - An impressive specialised collection of Germany, with many unmounted mint and used stamps; dating back to older Bavaria and Wurtemburg issues also Germania stamps. Following on to inflation stamps (circa 1920's 1930's) on to World War II, Nazi issues includes Theresienstadt; (without guarantee — as is). On to Hitler issues: Croatia, Bohemia and Moravia, war stamps (Genuine). Later issues for East and West Germany, includes postage dues elusive overprinted stamps with blocks and singles. Several hundred different German stamps — Price..... £23

FEM2. GREAT BRITAIN UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE - An important GB cover for the Centenary of the release of all Suffragettes from prison on 10/8/1914. The British Government after negotiations with Emmeline Pankhurst announced it was releasing all suffragettes from prison. In return the Women's Social and Political Union agreed to end all militant activity and assist in the war effort. The cover with iconic suffragette votes for women illustration bears a British definitive stamp with official Royal Mail Victorian style duplex Berkhamsted 66 pmk. on the anniversary dated 10/8/14. The cover also bears the votes for women commemorative stamp issue tied with red cachet inscribed "Universal Suffrage — Votes for Women". Severely restricted and limited issue of 100 covers (few available) — Price..... £12.75

M83 MIDDLE EAST — Important collection of Middle East Stamps includes: Persia (Iran)8(Iraq. Also noted: Qatar, Aden State, Yemen, Trucial States, Dubai, Lebanon, Palestine and Jordan — Including older stamps of Trans-Jordan. Several hundred different unmounted mint and used stamps, a great collection to build on — Price..... £26.50

SAM.1. POLAND - small general collection, include - Nazi Occupation Concentration Camp issue inscribed 'Judenpost' for Lodz Ghetto (Litzmanstdt) 10pf Green (unused). We cannot guarantee this item but remainder of the collection all seem OK Cheap Price £8.75

SJ120 MEDICAL Stamps with specialised lot of Anti-TB and Red Cross stamps. Also Anti-Malaria stamps Red Cross stamps back to the 1940s or earlier up to more recent. With nursing, doctors and all forms of medicine. A most interesting subject rarely offered for sale ideal for anyone with some medical knowledge to form a valuable collection ..... Price £7

LET K2 GREAT BRITAIN. UNMOUNTED MINT COMMEMORATIVES & DEFINITIVES UNSORTED ACCUMULATION. Items noted include Traffic Light Gutter Pair Missing Phosphor Error coil strips. Well over 500 stamps, only unmounted mint .....Price £18

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FR 229 FRANCE & COLS - A smashing collection of France with French Colonnies & Ex Colonies. Mainly Commemorative stamps in singles and blocks. Some unmounted mint, but mostly fine used. A lovely collection with many engraved stamps; several hundreds, mostly different .....Price £21

LU 328 LUNDY ISLAND - A superb collection of unmounted mint British local stamps of Lundy Island in blocks, large multiples and singles + miniature sheet. Starts off with King George VI period. "Lundy & Atlantic Coats Air Lines Ltd. "Following on to puffin stamps overprinted with 1950s & 1960s stamps on to more recent. With lots of "Puffin" stamps, definitives, commemoratives & Air Mail stamps. Hundreds of unmounted mint Lundy Stamps ..... Price £27.50

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C545 - WORLD COLLECTION - A great starter lot, with mint & used stamps also noted: miniature sheets, phq cards and several fdc's. Several hundred different world wide stamps plus other items Low price to clear.....Price £9.75

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The importance of being Erni

The stunning designs of Hans Erni, who died last year, adorned almost 100 stamps from Switzerland and elsewhere. We examine 10 of the most beautiful and iconic

Report by Adrian Keppel

The career of Swiss artist Hans Erni, who died in March 2015 at the age of 106, was remarkable in many ways.

He showed great versatility, becoming known for his paintings, frescoes, sculptures, engravings, lithographs, theatre sets and ceramics, and working on a canvas as large as a mural or as small as a postage stamp.

He also had amazing longevity. He was active as a stamp designer for fully six decades, from 1949 until 2009.

Rise and fall

Born in Lucerne on February 21, 1909, Erni studied art in Lucerne, Paris and Berlin.

He first favoured abstract work, influenced by artists such as the cubist Pablo Picasso and the surrealist Salvador Dalí. In the late 1930s, however, the threat of war pulled him away from the abstract, as he felt a need to express himself more figuratively.

This quickly brought him success. He came to fame when he designed an enormous mural for the 1939 National Exhibition in Zurich, entitled *Switzerland: Holiday Land of the People*.

Erni served as a soldier in the Swiss Army during World War II, and was used as a camouflage designer, but his political convictions would later become an obstacle to him. Although his first stamp design was issued in 1949, his openly communist views saw him blacklisted and lost him many subsequent commissions.

It was not until the Hungarian uprising was forcibly quashed by the Soviet Union in 1956 that he distanced himself from communism. 'Tanks destroyed my vision of life,' he said, but his career was rejuvenated.

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ABOVE: Hans Erni holding up a Nicaragua stamp of his design

Stamps and more

It was in the 1960s that Erni's philatelic output took off, and he remained prolific into the 1990s.

Most of his stamp designs were for Switzerland, but there were also notable issues for the United Nations and Liechtenstein, and his motifs were used by other countries around the world.

Although just as well known for larger works such as murals and stage sets, he once said: 'I am convinced that it is possible to express something even in the smallest space, assuming you have something to say.'

Much of his work was focused on causes he believed in, from pacifism and international co-operation to protecting the environment and sport, and he continued working in old age.

As late as 2009, at the age of 100, he had a 60m-long mural unveiled at the United Nations building in Geneva, featuring doves of peace, which were a recurrent theme in his art. He said that he wanted everyone working there to see it every day and think about peace.

In the same year, he was invited to design two eye-catching Swiss stamps marking his own birth centenary.

When Swiss television interviewed him on the occasion of his 106th birthday, Erni said he hoped his legacy would be 'a useful representation of the human race'. ■

Switzerland 1949
Gliding high

Erni's first stamp design was Switzerland's Pro Aero 1f 50c stamp of 1949, which was valid only on special postal flights in April that year, linking the cities of La Chaux-de-Fonds, St Gallen and Lugano.

Erni himself had qualified as a private pilot a few years earlier, and had a particular interest in aviation and aviation art.

This particular design, showing a glider over a pattern of straight lines and spirals, was characteristic of Erni, who liked to use swirling lines to suggest movement.

Liechtenstein 1971-72
Sporting success

The most remarkable of Erni's designs for Liechtenstein are two complementary sets issued in 1971 and 1972 celebrating the Winter Olympic Games in Sapporo, Japan, and the Olympic Games in Munich, Germany.

The total of eight colourful stamps illustrate competitors in various winter and summer sports, all against a backdrop of Erni's trademark swirling patterns.

Typical of these, and perhaps the most apposite, was the 1971 1f 50c design showing a woman figure skating, leaving her mark on the ice.

'I am convinced that it is possible to express something even in the smallest space, assuming you have something to say'

Switzerland, International Labour Office 1975
Work in progress

Interesting sidelines of Swiss philately are the stamp issues for the various international organisations which are based in Switzerland, and in 1975 Erni was asked to design a definitive set for the International Labour Office, the permanent secretariat of the International Labour Organization in Geneva.

The five stamps showed people at work, engaged in activities such as drilling, welding, using a lathe and a slide-rule.

These are more traditional images than many of Erni's designs, but they have a distinctly caricatured effect, and feature dramatic use of light and shade for depth, not least the 100c value depicting a surveyor using a theodolite.

Switzerland 1979
Signing in

The names of designers are usually inscribed in the bottom left-hand corner of Swiss stamps, but unusually Erni was asked to include his signature in the engraved designs of the 1979 Celebrities set, featuring writers and artists.

He obliged, but reluctantly and very inconspicuously.

On most values, his signature may be found just above the left shoulder of the person portrayed, but on the 40c red, honouring the artist Paul Klee, it may be found just to the left of the key in the bottom right-hand corner.

'Much of Erni's work was focused on causes he was passionate about, from pacifism and international co-operation to protection of the environment and sport'

FIND OUT MORE

- Web pages showcasing a broad variety of Hans Erni designs, for stamps, first day covers, postmarks and much more, has been created by Enrico Ghidelli. Visit www.ghidelli.net
- A Hans Erni Museum is located in the grounds of the Swiss Museum of Transport inLucerne, housing a large collection of his work.

Uruguay 1984
Aiming for the sun

When Erni was commissioned to produce a poster marking the 40th anniversary of the International Civil Aviation Organisation in 1984, he adapted part of an aluminium mural, entitled *Man In Flight*, which he had created in 1975 for the ICAO headquarters in Canada.

This motif, depicting Icarus flying towards the sun from ancient Greek mythology, was then used by a number of countries for their ICAO commemorative stamps, including Anguilla, Cameroon, Gabon, Tanzania, Togo, Turkey and Uruguay.

In typical Erni style, a jumble of swirls combine with restrained use of colour to portray an athletic human and his aetherial wings.

Switzerland 1986
Force of nature

Erni won the Grand Prix de l'Art Philatélique for Switzerland's Europa issue of 1986, his stamps declared the most beautiful issued for that year's Europa theme of Nature Conservation.

His two complementary designs showed a woman's head surrounded by maritime symbolism on a 50c value, and a man's head surrounded by terrestrial symbolism on a 90c value.

The latter design confirmed Erni's habit of using his own features when drawing an anonymous male face.

Switzerland 1990
Distinctive face

Arguably Erni's best portrait work featured in Switzerland's 1990 Celebrities set of four.

He managed to capture the personalities of the four painters and writers, including Blaise Cendrars on the 80c value, with a minimum of design fuss.

This was also another outing for Erni's favourite typeface for the country name and denomination, which had already become something of a trademark.

Switzerland 1995
On the wings of a dove

Erni's preoccupation with world peace made him an obvious candidate to design Switzerland's 1995 Europa issue, given the theme of Peace & Freedom.

The simple but evocative 60c lower value in the set of two had sketched male and female faces superimposed on an embossed white dove of peace, a motif which cropped up frequently in the artist's work.

United Nations 1993
Peace for our time

His belief in international co-operation meant that the United Nations was an organisation close to Erni's heart. He designed a number of stamps for it, including the 1984 Future For Refugees set, as well as donating a design for the Anti-Apartheid Committee, which was used as stamp motifs by various countries in 1981.

But his most ambitious creation was a composite design for a block of four 60c stamps for International Peace Day in 1993.

Entitled *Peace*, and typical of his abstract style, it was rouletted rather than perforated to preserve its integrity as a single work of art.

Switzerland 2009
Personal landmark

When Erni was approaching his centenary, Swiss Post invited him to design a stamp issue to celebrate his personal landmark, which is a rare honour in the world of philately.

The result was a pair of stamps which included many of his iconic trademarks, making them a wonderful legacy of one of the finest artists ever to turn his hand to stamps.

Look carefully at the 100c design, entitled *The Human Mind*, and you see four inquisitive faces gazing inward at a confusing, abstract centre.

JK 106. HARRY POTTER A fantastic collection of different Harry Potter stamps from various countries. Includes a scarce Isle of Man prisoner of Azkaban cover with I.O.M Harry Potter stamp in combination with official Royal Mail Harry Potter stamp, postmarked with illustrated first day issue, Hogwarts postmark. The collection also includes unmounted mint Royal Mail Harry Potter stamps and several other unmounted mint Harry Potter stamps and miniature sheets from various countries, includes catalogued and scarcer unlisted issues the whole collection .....Price £19.75

SA4 NELSON MANDELA A historic and scarce mourning cover for Nelson Mandela. 'His was a spirit born free, today his spirit is soaring through the heavens. He is now forever free' – Muhammad Ali 5/12/13. The cover bears a South Africa Mandela stamp with cachet 'In Memorial 1918-2013' also Royal Mail gold definitive postmarked Mount Pleasant 5/12/13. Only 50 covers known to exist .....Price £14.

SH337 SUPER HEROES A spectacular collection of Super Heroes on stamps including: Superman, Catwoman 'X-Men', Titans, The Incredible Hulk, Spiderman plus others Noted, Jersey 'Man of Steel' also various miniature sheets & mint and used stamps. The whole collection .....Price £19.50.

GB85 GREAT BRITAIN An important error on the 1966 Battle of Hastings 6d. value. The wrong colour gold leaf was used in error on the Queens Head. Error – yellow gold instead of normal bronze gold. We can offer the unmounted mint error plus normal stamp for comparison .....Price £7.50.

CYL29 CYLINDER NUMBER BLOCKS A specialized collection of Great Britain & British Commonwealth cylinder number blocks. It is unusual to see such a large lot of different cylinder number blocks 120 stamps in all unmounted mint cylinder number blocks .....Price £21.

LA39K BRITISH ISLES A phenomenal & valuable collection of British Local Island's stamps. Only unmounted mint, including Lundy Island, Davaar Island, Cairn Ior, Isle of Easdale, Bernera Island, Staffa, Stroma, Isle of Pabay, Bardsey, Herm, Calf of Man, Hildasay – Shetland Islands, Jethou, Brechou, Alderney, St Kilda, St Marys, Calfvey Island, Sanda Island, Gugh, St Martins. With blocks, multiples, singles & miniature sheets. This important & valuable collection with only unmounted mint stamps and many high £ values. The nominal face value is well over £200 ..Price £47.25.

GB5 GB WINSTON CHURCHILL D-DAY COVER A spectacular cover and valuable addition to any addition to any WWII Collection. The cover is inscribed 70th Anniv. of D-Day 6th June 1944. Illustrated with Churchill Downing Street 1940's Photograph, and Churchill's Quote: "And what a plan! This vast operation is undoubtedly the most complicated and difficult that has ever occured. The cover bears a combination of Royal Mail, Churchill and D-Day stamps. With official Royal Mail, British Forces 3173 Postal Services postmark, D-Day 6th June 2014. The cover also bears original King Geo VI GPO stamps, with horizontal cachet inscribed 'D-Day The Longest Day' in black. The cover issue was restricted to 100 covers only .....Price £13.75

HRH7 RARE ROYAL COVER Extremely rare Royal Cover for HRH Prince George. This superbly illustrated, Royal Baby, Official first day cover, bears a gutter pair originally printed for Princess Diana's 21st birthday, which was overprinted for the birth of her son Prince William dated 19/07/1982, the cover was re-posted with Royal Mail stamps of three generations: Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Charles & Prince William. Officially postmarked by the Royal Mail for Prince George's christening on 23/10/13 at St James' Palace London. The cover has been signed by the stamp designer – only 40 of this rare cover are understood to exist and are destined to be vital to any future Prince William and Prince George stamp collections .....Price £19.75.

Z338 UNORTHODOX STAMPS One of the most unusual collections we have ever seen assembled, with everything except normal stamps. Including triangular stamps, self adhesive 'free form', map shaped stamps, gold foil round (circular) stamps, diamond shapes, '3 dimensional' and others. Hundreds of different mint and used unorthodox stamps ..... Price £13.

LIB 92. LIBYA. War in Libya, Liberation Cover, An unusual cover inscribed Official Liberation Day with Iconic Illustration. The cover has Machin Royal Mail stamps and official Royal Mail British Jubilee postmark dated, 23 Oct 2011 (Libya Liberation Day). The cover also bears a Libya Col. Gaddafi stamp tied to cover with cachet inscribed 9ct 2011 Libya. An unusual and important cover .....Price £14.50

SF9 SCI-FI An impressive thematic collection of science fiction stamps & covers, including several different British 'Dr Who' covers & PHQ card. Also noted: Stars Wars stamps, Star Trek stamps and miniature sheets. Lot includes scarcer covers, and '$' values with unmounted mint & used and mini sheets. All Sci-Fi .....Price £21.

R88A NAZI GERMAN Occupation of World War II various Croatia Bohemia and Moravia. Occupation of Poland General government (Thereisenstadt also Lodz Ghetto these may not be genuine) plus various other Germany war period Hitler issues. Mainly genuine unmounted mint/ used .....Price £10

G104 BRITISH COMMONWEALTH Rare High Value Illustrated Gutter Pair FDCs personally signed by the DESIGNER of the stamps. Several of these which form part of a specialised collection of "Royal Baby" FDCs both unsigned and signed. Also various Royal Wedding PHQ Cards all pcks illust. First Day Issue Countries include St Lucia, Montserrat, St Vincent, Nevis, Tuvalu St Kitts, Kiribati. An impressive valuable collection .....Price £17.00

FD19 FOOTBALL. A super collection of football stamps. Noted, British Local stamps for West Ham, Arsenal, Blackpool, Bolton, Huddersfield, Blackburn Rovers and Portsmouth; also noted, Several World Cup Football Covers. Includes GB 1966 England World Cup (winners) mint issue, with several football miniature sheets - including Manchester United miniature sheet Plus several hundreds different football stamps. Mint and Used .....Price £21

M27A CORONATION STREET. A specialised and most unusual thematic collection of Coronation street stamps with COMPLETE UNM. MINT SETS. From various British local Islands, including scarcer High Values and several £1.00 values. Personalities depicted on stamps include; Jack & Annie Walker, Stan & Hilda Ogden, Ken & Irma Barlow, Jack & Vera Duckworth, Martha Longhurst, Ena Sharples, Mike & Alma Baldwin, Kevin Webster, Raquel Wolstenholme, Ray Langton, Liz McDonald, Alf Roberts, Bet Gilroy, Curly Watts, Leonard Swindly, Elsie Tanner, Reg Holdworth + others.....Price £12.00

LOT K2 GREAT BRITAIN UNMOUNTED MINT COMMEMORATIVES & DEFINITIVES & DEFINITIVES UNSORTED ACCUMULATION. Items noted include Traffic Light Gutter Pair Missing Phosphor Error coil strips. Well over 500 stamps only unmounted mint ..... Price £15

MM28 MARILYN MONROE A gorgeous collection of Marilyn Monroe stamps. Few other actresses embodies the term 'Hollywood Movie Star' as much as the legendary and iconic screen goddess, Marilyn Monroe. This collection contains many different unmounted mint and used Marilyn Monroe stamps. Including several elusive stamps ..... Price £11.

E.28 POSTAGE DUES. Unusual collection of POSTAGE DUE stamps, including GB, Br Cols and Foreign, in singles, blocks of multiples, all uncat. Mint (mostly unmounted) and used. About 120+ stamps ..... Price £8.00

E.32 TIBET Fantastic group printed on rough and thin "Native Type" paper including listed stamps, and some shades and colours which appear not to be listed in Gibbons Catalogue. Included are blocks and singles. Due to the crudeness of the printing of this type of Tibet stamps, there is no way we can guarantee any as genuine. If just some of the listed stamps were genuine the Catalogue Value would be Hundreds of Pounds. We have decided the safest way is to treat them as suspect and possible forgeries. As such we are offering them for sale at the knock down price of only ..... Price £13.00

E.32 GREAT BRITAIN SPECTACULAR ERROR on 1966 XMAS 3d Value (SG713) SHIFT OF GOLD COLOUR, missing Queens Head Shift Error, superb unmtd mint together with normal stamp for comparison ..... Price £4.25

JB 773 JAMES BOND . An outstanding collection of James Bond Stamps. Includes official Royal Mail James Bond combination cover bearing Ian Fleming's iconic James Bond book issue, with first day of issue 8/1/2008 Royal Mail Postmark . The cover was reposted on 1/5/2012 (four years later) with Royal Mail "British Hero James Bond 50th Anniv Postmark. The James Bond Collection continues with many Unmounted Mint James Bond Commemorative Stamps and Miniature Sheets: Including, scarcer unlisted issues from various countries .....Price £26

EXP 14. THE BRITISH - ICELANDIC EXPEDITION A scarce expedition cover for the British - Icelandic expedition of 1981. This is the official illustrated cover flown from the UK to KEFLAVIC (Iceland) and bears the P.O. expedition postmark. The cover has been additionally signed by Mike Todd, (Chairman of the B.S.A.C.) An important postal history cover fo..... . Price £12

STR 58 GREAT BRITAIN SPECIALISED 1971 POSTAL STRIKE COLLECTION. Dating back to the short period in British Postal History when the Post Office granted licenses to private delivery companies to deliver mail in the U.K. This important GB postal history collection comprising of postal strike stamps in singles & blocks also has scarcer multiples and "Tete-beche" stamps. Used and unused with many unmounted mint (FDC noted). Well over one hundred stamps ..... Price £15

ATH6 GREECE A colossal collection of Greek stamps from early issues to modern. Many older unmounted mint stamps including scarcer overprinted issues. There must be well over 500 different stamps of Greece including mint and used .....Price £23.

SP27X SPACE Space, the final frontier. A small but impressive collection of outer space and space exploration camps. Including original 1969 moon landing cover and People's Republic of China space covers. Over 100+ mint and used stamps and miniature sheets. Noted mint Royal Mail issues for Planetary Nebula in Norma & Aquila, Seyfert 2 Galaxy in Circinus, Pegasus Galaxy. Also Russia mint issue for Yuri Gagarin, first man in space. A lovely lot .....Price £14.50.

GB.51 - GREAT BRITAIN Scarce Festival of Britain Commem. Cover Bearing the Abram Games stamp designer official Royal Mail Commem. Stamp cancelled with iconic Festival of Britain 25/3/14 Postmark. The cover also bears the complete King George VI 1951 Festival stamps with black cachet "G.P.O. 1951 Festival of Britain Official Stamp Issue" The edition was limited to only 100 of these important covers .....Price £11.25

RD32 IRAQ WAR Rare operation Red Dawn - Iraq War cover, Issued for the capture of Saddam Hussein. The illustrated cover bears a Royal Mail Tower Bridge Stamp with illustrated Tower Hill Postmark, dated 13th December 2003. The cover also bears an Iraq Saddam Hussein stamp tied to the cover with black cachet inscribed " Ad Dawr Iraq December 2003" In English and Arabic. Originally the cover issue was only 100 covers but few are believed to still exist outside collectors hands .....Price £21

M6 PRINCESS DIANA – Worldwide collection. Some 1981 Wedding issues, also Prince William Birth, including scarcer sheetlets. V SCARCE GUTTER PAIR F.D.C's SIGNED BY THE DESIGNER (stamp designer) also various worldwide 1997 Princess Diana Memorial Issues. The whole collection .....Price £13.00

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Andrew giving The Kay Goodman Lecture GBPS Leeds 2015
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The lengths we go to creating this auction for You... Just How is it done?

It was hardly a question I was expecting, but I was happy to answer. The occasion: I was honoured to be invited to give the Kay Goodman Lecture at the Great Britain Philatelic Society National Philatelic Congress Leeds August 2015 … but there was just one small problem – as many of you may know … I am passionate about our hobby – *but I don't actually collect stamps* – however my company does handle more than most!

AT the tender age of 18 I took the decision to stop collecting when I entered the trade – reasoning that if I continued to collect and was fortunate enough to have my own company … I might end up with a wonderful collection but No money to pay the mortgage … so, never being seduced to 'carry on collecting' what was I to talk about at the Congress?

Expecting something of a 'grilling' with the subject 'Philatelic Auctions' I entered the 'Lion's Den', a good hundred passionate collectors at the Art Deco Queens Hotel Leeds. A good hour of non-stop questions later, I'm not sure why nobody asked me why I'm so passionately against huge 'Buyer's Premiums' but one collector expressing amazement at the size of our auctions asked how we manage to source so many stamps?

To be honest sometimes we amaze ourselves – but ultimately it is all about 'mind-set' and belief. You see, unlike other auctions (and dealers) I take the simple view that if something is not selling it must be too expensive otherwise you, the collector, would have bid for it and won it at auction … Therefore, when we present 20,000+ lots with a value of £1.8 million … and 10,000 lots sell to almost 2,000 different bidders/collectors world-wide … we have 10,000+/- unsold lots which must be too expensive – so we reduce them all in estimate (and reserve) according to how long they've been unsold and (unlike other auctions) in your next auction we tell you how many times they have been unsold so you can work out how much these stamps have been reduced, and just how much of a bargain they have become - this forms the increasingly tempting nucleus of the next auction.

It follows that whilst one auction progresses towards closing date we have just 3 months to locate and describe at least another 10,000 more lots. 'Pouring' in 10,000 newly sourced and described new lots is no small task. It takes a Team of 3 or 4 different describer-valuers/buyers combing the UK (and abroad) … then breaking/describing collections with the help of a further 3 or 4 different describers. Bearing in mind that none of us is becoming any younger … you may imagine that we have describer/valuers situated all over the United Kingdom including a key full-time experienced team member located in London participating at all of the major London Stamp Auctions. In our 60th £2,083,177.00 value celebratory auction somehow the team has managed to source and describe more than 13,000 new auction lots. With Christmas break intervening we'll be lucky to manage that feat again in our 61st auction.

So where do all the stamps come from? Offering the U P A Unique Reducing-Estimate System is not for the faint-hearted. Over the past 15 years we've offered more than 1,000,000 lots with valuable collector-owned items on a commission basis and sold stamps up to £90,000 each, and collections up to £600,000 – but to do so with lower priced material logistically would be a nightmare … so it's a unique combination of valuable material upon a commission basis, lower priced material which we may have sourced and owned plus collections purchased at auction far and wide all appropriately described and lotted to suit collectors (although dealers worldwide still participate too by winning lots for their own clients). Ownership of a substantial majority of auction lots permits us to do things others dare not do … such as our controversial **NO-BUYER'S PREMIUM** policy saving collectors up to 27% … which in turn permits us to guarantee every lot … and to offer the **Unique U P A Reducing-Estimate System** etc etc

Hopefully we now have in excess of 20,000 different lots ready to create the next auction by the time our 'deadline' has arrived. Now the 'Admin/Back Office' Team takes over … 100's of carefully organised hours' work go into creating the complimentary 20,000+ lot free auction catalogue that I'm hoping you will request … imagine how much time and effort go into creating 60 photo-plates comprising 3,511 different stamp images, the 'data-crunching' to present you with 370 pages of painstakingly presented descriptions but here's something you may have noticed but not actually noted …

Please turn to page 113 ☛

Football fever

Britain's national sport has enjoyed growing recognition in stamp issues, even if the other home nations might find England's dominance galling

Report by Jeff Dugdale

References to football on British stamps have become increasingly common since the first in 1966.

Many have come in relation to England's participation in international tournaments, with the other home nations receiving scant attention.

But there have been several recent issues featuring prominent individual players and managers, and a few oddities where football has crept into diverse themes such as films and war.

The 1966 World Cup set of three stamps looks incongruous to modern eyes, with three different designers employed, two different Queen's heads and a mix of horizontal and landscape formats. Despite this, the 6d and 1s 3d values both managed to show similar goalmouth action, leaving other aspects of the game ignored.

England's victory in the tournament, beating West Germany 4-2 in the final, spawned a first in British philatelic history: a reprint with an additional commemorative inscription.

LEFT: 1966 World Cup 4d reprint, with the additional 'England Winners' inscription

RIGHT: 1999 Entertainers' Tale 26p, illustating England's captain Bobby Moore holding the World Cup trophy aloft in 1966

Fortunately, there was enough white space in the design of the 4d for 'England Winners' to be inserted, and the amended stamp was issued three weeks later.

Further recollections of the tournament appeared in 1999, when a stamp in The Entertainers' Tale set illustrated England captain Bobby Moore holding the Jules Rimet Trophy aloft, and in 2012, when the House of Windsor miniature sheet had a design showing the team line-up.

'England's victory in the 1966 World Cup Final spawned a first in British philatelic history: a reprint with a commemorative inscription added'

Famously, stamp designs were prepared in case Scotland won the 1978 World Cup, but they were not required.

Although a single design in the 1988 Sports Organisations issue noted the Centenary of the Football League, 30 years passed between 1966 and the next full set featuring the sport, when the 1996 European Championship was hosted by England.

Oddly, the chosen approach was to recall five Football Legends, and controversially four of these were England internationals and none was Scottish, even though Scotland had qualified for the tournament.

Appropriately based on monochrome photographs, and this time depicting a wider variety of action, the stamps honoured Dixie Dean, the greatest goalscorer of the 1920s and 1930s, Billy Wright, the defender of the 1940s and 1950s who became the first man from any country to win 100 international caps, Duncan Edwards, the young prodigy killed in the Munich air disaster in 1958, and Bobby Moore, the World Cup winning captain.

The highest value featured

ABOVE: 1996 European Football Championship 19p, showing the prolific pre-war goalscorer Dixie Dean

Danny Blanchflower, Northern Ireland's inspirational midfielder of the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s.

The 2002 World Cup in Japan and Korea was celebrated in half-hearted fashion, with a miniature sheet of four se-tenant stamps showing footballs in the front of the four quarters of the English flag (England being the only home nation which had qualified).

A much more interesting issue marked the 2006 World Cup in Germany, taking previous winners of the tournament as its theme, but again there was a strange anomaly.

Six designs featured mages of the anonymous lower halves of international players wearing the national kit of England (1966), Italy (1934, 1938, 1982), Argentina (1978, 1986), Germany (1954, 1974, 1990), France (1998) and Brazil (1958, 1962, 1970, 1994, 2002), but curiously that omitted Uruguay (1930, 1950).

Perhaps the most imaginative issue on this theme was the 2013 Football Heroes set, which took the concept of a best-of-British team of

ABOVE: 2013 Great Britons 1st class, celebrating the legendary football manager Bill Shankly

11 players from the four home nations, each portrayed wearing the international kit of their day.

England was represented by Jimmy Greaves, Gordon Banks, Bobby Moore, Bobby Charlton (all from the 1966 squad), Kevin Keegan, Bryan Robson and John Barnes, Scotland by Denis Law and Dave Mackay, Wales by John Charles and Northern Ireland by George Best.

Leaving aside differing opinions as to who merited inclusion in the team (which was top-heavy with attacking players and bereft of full-backs!), these selections were controversial in that they included eight living players.

On the other hand, a clever design saw the whole set issued in a miniature sheet which resembled a team photograph, albeit with all the players wearing different kits!

BELOW: 2013 Football Heroes miniature sheet, with its British XI line-up: Greaves, Charles, Banks, Best, Barnes, Keegan, Law, Moore, Robson, Mackay, Charlton

A recent development has seen the honouring of some of Britain's greatest football managers.

The 2009 Eminent Britons issue included a stamp portraying Matt Busby, who led Manchester United to domestic and European success from 1945-71, while the 2013 Great Britons set included Bill Shankly, who did likewise for Liverpool from 1959-74, and famously remarked that 'Some people think football is a matter of life and death. I can assure you it is much more important than that'.

The 2014 Remarkable Lives set featured Joe Mercer, best known as the manager of Manchester City.

Oblique references to the sport in recent years have also included a stamp in the 2014 Great British Film issue celebrating *Bend it Like Beckham*, which concerns young female players, and one in the 2015 First World War series showing the leather football which was kicked across no-man's-land on the first day of the Battle of Loos in 1915. ■

CHECKLIST

DATE	ISSUE	STAMPS
1966	World Cup	3
1966	World Cup: England Winners	1
1988	Sports Organisations	1
1996	European Championship	5
1999	The Entertainers' Tale	1
2000	Body & Bone	1
2002	World Cup	4
2006	World Cup	6
2009	Eminent Britons	1
2010	Olympic & Paralympic Games	1
2012	House of Windsor	1
2013	Great Britons	1
2013	Football Heroes	11
2014	Remarkable Lives	1
2014	Great British Film	1
2015	First World War	1

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FRENCH POLYNESIA
5071 : 1958-1973 unmounted range of Views, and commems in sets, all different, includes 1962 Flowers, 1963 Games, 1965 Telecom (SG 44 cat £40), Harpoonst (SG 48 cat £55), 1971 Art (SG 147/51 cat £65), 1972 Art (SG 160/64 cat £95), 1973 Pierre Loti (SG 170 cat £50). Total cat £357 (24 stamps) ... £95

FRENCH T.A.A.F.
5049 : Antarctic territories, little mint selection, includes 1960 15F Seal (SG 14 mint light hinge cat £90), 85F Penguin, and 50F and 100F Airs u/m (SG 16/17 cat £78). Cat £190. (11 stamps) £50

GERMANY
4987 : 1872-74 Eagles, little selection of unused (no gum, some fresh, some slightly thinned), with Small Shield 1/3g, 2k, Large Shield «g, 1g, 2g, 3k, 7k, and 1874 9 on 9k surcharge. Cat £1140, fresh appearance from the front, modestly priced to allow for condition (8 stamps) £75

GERMANY - DDR
5413 : 1969-1989 virtually complete u/m collection in 3 Schaubek albums (printed leaves to which black Hawids are affixed, in matching blue peg binders, as new with dust wrappers), c1800 stamps (5½ kilos) £200

GERMANY - DDR
4985 : 1965 Officials mint and used range with Category D 20pf on dull rose u/m (Mi 1A cat 250 Euros), 20pf on bright pink mint but small thin on back (Mi 2 cat 2800 Euros!), later Category D issues mint and used incl an imperf pair with VEB printer impri nt, Category E with 65pf green on cream u/m (Mi 1 cat 300 Euros) and the later issue, plus a dozen registration label types of 1967 (23 stamps) ... £125

GERMANY - DDR
5417 : 1968-1989 good run of u/m sets in two stockbooks, most years possibly complete (but not checked) and some years with extra duplicates in most cases. About 1600 different stampsl plus the few hundred extras (2½ kilos) £100

GERMANY - WEST
5414 : nearly complete used collection in Lighthouse printed album (blue springback padded binder, titled), needs some for first few years but includes 1951 Lübeck Church (SG 1065/66 cat £200), 1952 Youth Hostels (SG 1080/81 cat £54), 1953 Science (SG 1089 cat £41), then 1954 to 1991 apparently complete except 1986 portrait definitives (and couple recent commems are mint), nearly 2000 stamps (3½ kilos) £150

GERMANY - WEST
5415 : 1951-1987 used collection on KaBe leaves (plus worn peg binder), needs the good earlies but otherwise virtually complete from mid-1950s to 1987 (1000 stamps) (3 kilos) £100

GERMANY - WEST & BERLIN
5416 : Four albums or stockbooks all well filled with u/m and used ranges from immediate postwar but some strength in 1970s and 1980s u/m especially Berlin (8 kilos) £150

GREECE
5333 : 1860s-1943 mainly used range (plus a few better mint), from Hermes Heads (some Large Heads, good run of Small Heads), 1896 Olympics to 2D (SG 119 cat £80), 1901 definitives (2D and 5D are mint), 1906 Olympics set (3D and 5D are mint, SG 195,196, cat £90), 1913 Victory to 3D, 5D (SG 264, 265, cat £90), 1920s incl 1926 Auroespresso, 1927 definitives (15D is mint, SG 422 cat £225), 1930 Centenary set (SG 433/50 cat £110), and most others to 1943 (400 stamps) £250

GREECE
4581 : 1944-1950 unmounted mint range of mainly pictorials or surcharges with various better incl 1946 1000D on 500,000D (SG 637), 2000D on 5000D (SG 638 cat £60), 5000D on 15,000D (SG 639 cat £250), 1946 Monarchy (SG 642/45 cat £42), 1950 1500D Fortress (SG 676 cat £140), 5000D Hippocrates (SG 680 cat £75), 10,000D Colossus of Rhodes (SG 681 cat £130), 1950 Battle of Crete. Cat £750 (28 stamps) £200

GREECE
5395 : 1945-1959 range of mainly commem sets, u/m or mint light hinge, incl 1949 Abduction hinged (SG 683/85 cat £34), 1956 Royal Family u/m (SG 747/60 cat £120), 1959 First Coins u/m (SG 799/808 cat £50) and other sets. Total cat about £350. (65 stamps) £75

GREECE
5396 : 1950-1958 all different mint selection of better Views/derfinitives, including 1950 mint light hinge 1500D (SG 676 cat £140), 2000D (SG 678 cat £75), 5000D (SG 680 cat £75), 1000D (SG 681 cat £130), 1954 20,000D top value (SG 724 cat £75), 1955 4D (SG 741 cat £95), and some other early 1950s, plus 1958 most Greek Ports (SG between 784 and 790 cat about £100). Total cat nearly £1000 (65 stamps) £75

GREECE
5418 : 1945-1952 good run mint or used, including 1946 surcharges mainly used (SG 622/39 cat £50), 1951 St Paul used (SG 688/91 cat £90), 1952 Anti-Communist u/m (SG 698/701 cat £80) and most others of the period (100 stamps) £75

GREECE
5394 : 1945-1959 used range (all different, and commems are in sets), includes 1946 5000D on 15,000D (SG 639 cat £43), 1951 St Paul (SG 688/91 cat £90), and other commem sets to 1959. (150 stamps) £50

GREECE
5393 : 1945-1959 mint (some u/m) and used range, slight duplication, includes 1955 Pythagoras three values to 5D u/m (SG 742/44 cat £90), 1958 100D Harbour u/m (SG 790 cat £60), 1959 Theatre set u/m and some other better cat sets. (130 stamps) ... £25

GREENLAND
5399 : 1945 Liberation ovpts set mint light hinge (SG 17/25 cat £500) (9 stamps) £175

GREENLAND
5397 : 1945 Views set u/m (SG 8/16 cat £225) (9 stamps) £100

GREENLAND
5398 : 1945 Views set used on unaddressed FDC (SG 8/16 cat £170 as single stamps) (9 stamps) £85

HAWAII
5328 : 1864-1894 used (most) and mint (a few) range with 1864 to 18c (latter unused), 1882 to 15c, 1883 to 50c, 1890 5c mint (off centre), 1893 Provisional ovpts to 18c mainly mint, 1894 pictorials to 25c (45 stamps) £90

INDONESIA
5423 : 1945-1954 good run of local and national issues mainly mint plus some extra used, includes 1945-49 locally printed issues, 1948-49 unissued USA printing (apparently complete), 1948 Dutch rule to 2½G mint (SG 538 cat £45), United Indonesia to 1955 virtually complete plus extra used etc (about 750 stamps) £200

INDONESIA
5421 : 1948-1949 Dutch rule, basic issues complete with 1948 to 25G incl both 1G, 1949 pictorials basic set and UPU. Cat about £690 (38 stamps) ... £150

INDONESIA
4144 : 1948 surcharges to 2½G mint (SG 538, cat £70) incl both 1G, and the long 1949 pictorials set mint (SG 548/71 cat about £325, the lower values mainly perf 11½) (40 stamps) £95

INDONESIA
5422 : 1949 Dutch rule pictorials basic set mint (couple tropical toned, rest fine) (SG 548/71 cat £325) (24 stamps) £75

ITALIAN COLONIES
4716 : Mint (most) and used (some) range, all different, includes Aegean (Dodecanese) 1912 individual island ovpts incl Caso 20c no wmk mint (SG 9B cat £75, Rodi 20c on 15c mint (SG 8J cat £75), 20c no wmk mint (SG 9J cat £100), Simi 20c no wmk mint (SG 9L cat £40), some African colonies incl Tripolitaina 1924 5L Manzoni used (SG 15 cat £150). Total cat £1135 (70 stamps) ... £235

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MARCH 18-20
AUSTRALIA
Canberra Stampshow 2016
Venue: Hellenic Club of Canberra, Matilda Street, Woden, Canberra.
Contact: Exhibition Secretary, Canberra Stampshow 2016, GPO Box 1840, Canberra, ACT 2601, Australia
canberrastampshow2016@gmail.com
www.canberrastamps.org

APRIL 8-10
FINLAND
Nordia 2016
Venue: Jyväskylän Paviljonki Congress Centre, Lutakonaukio 12, 40100 Jyväskylä.
Contact: UK Commissioner, Birthe King
birthe.king@postalhistory.net
www.nordia2016.net

APRIL 15-16
UK
ASPS Congress
Venue: Dewar's Centre, Glover Street, Perth PH12 0TH.
Contact: Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies or Caledonian Philatelic Society
www.caledonianphilatelic.org.uk

APRIL 22-24
SWITZERLAND
Inposta 2016
Venue: Lintharena SGU, Oberurnerstrasse 14, 8752 Näfels, Switzerland.
Contact: Dr Claude Montandon, Essigweg 33, 4133 Pratteln, Switzerland
Tel: +41 618 219 911

APRIL 30-MAY 1
CANADA
Orapex
Venue: RA Centre, 2451 Riverside Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.
Contact: www.orapex.ca

MAY 12-14
GERMANY
Essen International Stamp Fair
Venue: Messehaus Ost, Essen Exhibition Centre, Norbertstrasse 2, 45131 Essen.
Contact: Jan Billion, Messeagentur, Postfach 108 254, 40863 Ratingen, Germany.
Tel: +49 2102 50675
Fax: +49 2102 895825
info@briefmarkenmesse-essen.de

MAY 19-22
FRANCE
Paris-Philex 2016
Venue: Hall 2.
2, Paris Expo, Porte de Versailles, 75015 Paris, France
Contact:
www.cnep.fr

MAY 28-JUNE 4
USA
New York 2016 World Stamp Show
Venue: Jacob Javits Convention Center, 655 West 34th Street, New York City, New York 10001.
Contact: Thomas M Fortunato, Chairman, Marketing & PR
Tel: +1 585 225 6822
info@ny2016.org
www.ny2016.org

JUNE 17-18
USA
Okpex
Venue: Reed Conference Center, 5800 Will Rogers Road, Midwest City, Oklahoma 73110.
Contact: Joe Crosby
Tel: +1 405 749 0930
joecrosby@cox.net
www.okcs.org

JULY 15-16
UK
York Stamp Fair
Venue: The Grandstand, York Racecourse, York YO23 1EX.
Contact: Kate Puleston
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strand@trevordavis.com
www.stampshows.net

JULY 15-17
USA
Minnesota Stamp Expo
Venue: Crystal Community Center, 4800 Douglas Drive North, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55429.
Contact: Randy A Smith
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rasmary4@frontiernet.net
www.stampsminnesota.com

JULY 21-24
UK
Philatelic Congress of Great Britain
Venue: Cambridge Belfry Hotel, Back Lane, Cambourne, Cambridge CB23 6BW.
www.gbcongress.uk

AUGUST 4-7
USA
American Philatelic Society StampShow
Venue: Oregon Convention Center, 777 NE Martin Luther Jr Boulevard, Portland, Oregon 97232.
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www.stamps.org

AUGUST 10-15
THAILAND
Thailand 2016 Asian International Stamp Exhibition
Venue: The Mall Ngamwongwan Convention Center, Mueang Nonthaburi District, Nonthaburi, Bangkok.
Contact: Commissioner General, 2nd Floor, Sam Sen Nai Post Office, 1553 Phaholyothin Road, Sam Sen Nai, Phayathai, Bangkok 10400, Thailand
Tel/Fax: +66 2278 1034
pat2546@yahoo.com
www.thailand2016.org

AUGUST 25-28
AUSTRIA
Gmunden 2016
Venue: Kongresshaus Toscana, Toscanapark 6, 4810 Gmunden.
Contact: Reinhard Newmayr, Wunderburgstrasse 30, 4810 Gmunden, Austria.
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SEPTEMBER 14-17
UK
Autumn Stampex
Venue: Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, London N1 0QH.
Contact: Graham Childs, PO Box 981, Southsea, Hampshire PO1 9PG
Tel: 023 9283 2289
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OCTOBER 21-26
TAIWAN
Philataipei 2016 World Stamp Exhibition
Venue: Exhibition Hall 1, World Trade Centre, Xinyi District, Taipei, Taiwan.
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Fax: +886 2 2396 9125
philataipei2016@mail.post.gov.tw
www.taipei2016.post.gov.tw/post/taipei2016/en

NOVEMBER 18-20
USA
Chicagopex
Venue: Westin Chicago Northwest, 400 Park Boulevard, Itasca, Illinois 60143.
Contact: Robert Glass
boblglass@mac.com
www.chicagopex.org

NORDIA 2016

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MARCH 9-10
CAVENDISH
J W Nicholson Collection of Papua & New Guinea
Martin Evans Collection of Great Britain
Hoggarth Collection of Crash & Wreck Mail
Venue: 153-157 London Road, Derby DE1 2SY.
Contact: Greg Spring
Tel: 01332 250970
Fax: 01332 294440
greg@cavendish-auctions.com
www.cavendish-auctions.com

MARCH 9-12
CORINPHILA-VEILINGEN
Luis Alemany Indarte Collection of Netherlands Postal History
Venue: Corinphila Veilingen, Heemraadschapslaan 100, 1181 VC Amstelveen, Netherlands.
Contact: Corinphila-Veilingen
Tel: +31 206 249 740
Fax: +31 206 249 749
info@corinphila.nl
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MARCH 15-19
HEINRICH KÖHLER
Venue: Wilhemstrasse 48/1, 65183 Wiesbaden, Germany.
Contact: Heinrich Köhler
Tel: +49 611 39381.
Fax: +49 611 39384.
info@heinrich-koehler.de
www.heinrich-koehler.de

MARCH 17
GROSVENOR
British Empire & Foreign Countries featuring Bermuda, Ceylon & North Borneo
Venue: 399-401 Strand, London WC2R 0LT.
Contact: Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions
Tel: 020 7379 8789
Fax: 020 7379 9737
info@grosvenor-auctions.co.uk
www.grosvenorauctions.com

MARCH 18-19
POSTILJONEN
Indridi Pálsson Collection of Iceland
Venue: Hotel Savoy, Norra Vallgatan 62, SE-211 22 Malmö, Sweden.
Contact: Postiljonen AB, Box 537, S-201 25 Malmö, Sweden
Tel: +46 40 25 88 50
Fax: +46 40 25 88 59
stampauctions@postiljonen.se
www.postiljonen.se

MARCH 21
ROBERT MURRAY
Venue: Stewart's Melville Club Pavilion, 523 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH5 2DW.
Contact: Robert Murray Stamp Shop, 5 & 6 Inverleith Gardens, Edinburgh EH3 5PU
Tel: 0131 552 1220
murray@stamp-shop.com
www.stamp-shop.com

MARCH 22-23
STANLEY GIBBONS
Venue: 399 Strand, London WC2R 0LX.
Contact: Andrew Ellis
Tel: 020 7557 4458
aellis@stanleygibbons.com
www.stanleygibbons.com

APRIL 1-2
HELLMAN
Venue: Hotel Crowne Plazza, Mannerheimintie 50, 00260 Helsinki, Finland.
Contact: Philatelic Service of Finland
Tel: +358 2 254 7200
Fax: +358 2 254 7220
myynti@filateliapalvelu.com
www.filateliapalvelu.com

APRIL 2
SOMERSET
Venue: Hill Farm, Hemyock, Cullompton, Devon EX15 3UZ.
Contact: Somerset Stamp Auctions
Tel: 01823 681358
Fax: 01823 681375
www.somersetstampauctions.com

APRIL 3
PROVINCIAL PHILATELICS
Venue: Parish Hall, Benson, Oxfordshire OX10 6LZ.
Contact: Provincial Phiatelics, 90 Park Road, Didcot, Oxfordshire OX11 8QR
Tel: 01235 511083
Fax: 01235 511083
www.provincialphilatelics.co.uk

APRIL 6
WARWICK & WARWICK
Venue: The Court House, Jury Street, Warwick CV34 4EW.
Contact: Warwick & Warwick, Chalon House, Scar Bank, Millers Road, Warwick CV34 5DB
Tel: 01926 499031
Fax: 01926 491906
info@warwickandwarwick.com
www.warwickandwarwick.com

APRIL 7-8
RÖLLI-SCHÄR
Picture Postcards & Covers
Venue: Haus Zum Seidenhof, Seidenhofstrasse 2, CH-6003 Lucerne, Switzerland.
Contact: Rölli-Schär
Tel: +41 41 226 02 02
Fax: +41 41 226 02 01
info@roelliphila.ch
www.roelliphila.ch

APRIL 9
BIL & CO
Venue: Washingborough Community Centre, Fen Road, Washingborough, Lincolnshire LN4 1AB.
Contact: Bil Tilbury
Tel: 01400 230769
biltilbury@btinternet.com
www.bilandco.co.uk

APRIL 13
AJH STAMPS
Venue: The Dunkenhalgh Hotel & Spa, Clayton-le-Moors, Lancashire BB5 5JP.
Contact: The Laurels, Manchester Road, Accrington, Lancashire BB5 2PF
Tel: 01254 393740
Fax: 01254 382274
sales@ajhstamps.co.uk
www.ajhstamps.co.uk

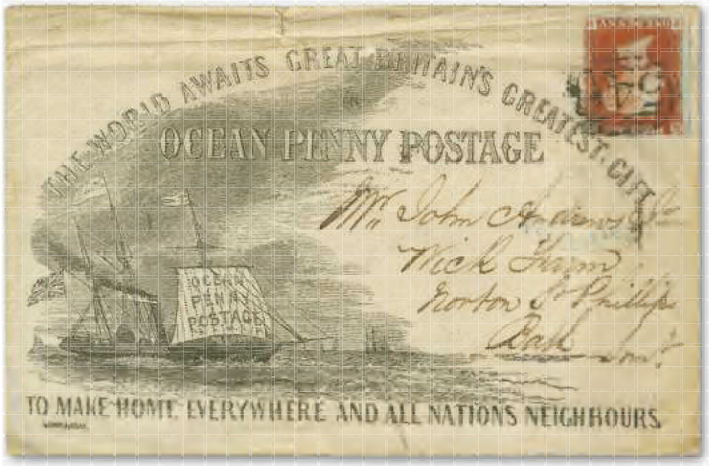
LOT TO BE DESIRED

Heinrich Koehler's sale of the 'Vasco da Gama' collection of international ship mail on March 15 includes this lovely Ocean Penny Postage cover of the 1840s.

Illustrated envelopes were a central part of the ultimately unsuccessful campaign led by Elihu Burritt, an American Quaker, to bring down international postage rates, and have become an extensive collecting field.

This example of Henry Anelay's 'The world awaits Great Britain's greatest gift' design (state 2) is franked with an imperforate Penny Red and addressed to Bath.

It has some creasing and a small tear at the top, but the pre-sale estimate is still €400 (about £300).



ENGLISH-LANGUAGE POSTAL SALES

APEX
Tel: 01342 833413
info@apexstamps.com
www.apexstamp.com

COUNTY
county@stampauctions.co.uk
www.stampauctions.co.uk

MOWBRAY
Tel: +64 6 364 8270
mowbray.stamps@xtra.co.nz
www.mowbrays.co.nz

SANDAFAYRE
Tel: 01565 653214
stamp@sandafayre.com
www.sandafayre.com

UNIVERSAL
Tel: 01451 861111
info@upastampauctions.co.uk
www.upastampauctions.co.uk

VANCE
Tel: +1 905 957 3364
mail@vanceauctions.com
www.vanceauctions.com

ENGLISH-LANGUAGE ONLINE SALES

DALKEITH
www.dalkeith-auctions.co.uk

DELCAMPE
www.delcampe.net

McCUSKER
www.jamesmccusker.com

MOWBRAY
www.mowbrays.co.nz

PHILATINO
www.philatino.com

RASMUSSEN
www.bruun-rasmussen.dk

REGENCY
www.regencystamps.com

ROGERS
www.michaelrogersinc.com

SAMMARINESE
www.filsam.com

SANDAFAYRE
www.sandafayre.com

SKANFIL
www.skanfil.no

STAMP CENTER
www.thestampcenter.com

STAMPFAIR
www.stampfair.com

STANLEY GIBBONS
www.stanleygibbons.com

TORRES
www.antoniotorres.com

TRAFFORD BOOKS
www.traffordbooks.co.uk

Every care is taken to ensure the details published are accurate, but we cannot be responsible for any errors or cancellations. You are advised to check with the event organisers before setting out.

UK STAMP FAIR DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

To include an event in this listing, we need at least two months' notice. Send details to What's On, *Stamp Magazine*, MyTimeMedia Ltd, Enterprise House, Enterprise Way, Edenbridge, Kent TN8 6HG. E-mail: guy.thomas@mytimemedia.com

MARCH 11

CLYST ST GEORGE
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: Parish Hall, Woodbury Road, EX3 0RE.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Solent Stamps
Tel: 01489 582673

COLWYN BAY
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Eirias High School, Eirias Road, LL29 7SP.
Time: 9.30am-3pm
Contact: S J Chapman
Tel: 01745 826434

DERBY
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: Nunsfield House Community Hall, 33 Boulton Road, Alvaston, DE24 0FD.
Time: 9.30am-4pm
Contact: H V Johnson & Co
Tel: 01909 563394

EASTBOURNE
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: St Mary's Church Hall, Decoy Drive, Hampden Park, BN22 9PP.
Time: 10am-3.30pm
Contact: Chris Rapley
Tel: 07711 677760

LAINDON
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: Methodist Church Hall, High Road, Langdon Hills, SS16 6EX.
Time: 9.30am-3.30pm
Contact: David Church
Tel: 01268 543371

WESTON SUPER MARE
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Victoria Methodist Church Hall, Station Road, BS23 1XU.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Michael Hale
Tel: 01749 677669

MARCH 13

HERNE
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Herne Parish Hall, Herne Street, CT6 7HE.
Time: 10am-3.30pm
Contact: Chris Rapley
Tel: 07711 677760

ORMSKIRK
(stamps)
Venue: The Guide HQ, Moorgate, L39 4RT.
Time: 10am-3pm
Contact: GBC Promotions
Tel: 0151 4862610

WOKINGHAM
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: St Crispin's Leisure Centre, London Road, RG40 1SR.
Time: 10am-3pm
Contact: Nigel Stow
Tel: 01923 674999

MARCH 16

EAST GRINSTEAD
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Chequer Mead Arts Centre, De La Warr Road, RH19 3BS.
Time: 10am-3pm
Contact: Malcolm Green
Tel: 01342 327554

MARCH 18

LONDON
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, Russell Square, WC1H 0DG.
Time: 9am-4pm
Contact: Kate Puleston
Tel: 020 8946 4489

MARCH 19

BILSBORROW
(stamps)
Venue: Bilsborrow Village Hall, PR3 0RP.
Time: 10am-3.30pm
Contact: GBC Promotions
Tel: 0151 4862610

BRIDGWATER
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: Westfield United Reformed Church Hall, West Street, TA6 7EU.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: David Lowe
Tel: 01278 691755

HULL
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: St Stephen's Church Hall, Freehold Street, off Spring Bank, HU3 1RB.
Time: 9.30am-4pm
Contact: H V Johnson & Co
Tel: 01909 563394

KENILWORTH
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: Kenilworth School, Leyes Lane, CV8 2DA.
Time: 10am-3.30pm
Contact: JRS Fairs
Tel: 01785 259350

SITTINGBOURNE
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: Carmel Hall, Ufton Lane, off West Street, ME10 1JB.
Time: 10am-3.30pm
Contact: Chris Rapley
Tel: 07711 677760

MARCH 20

ALTRINCHAM
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Cresta Court Hotel, Church Street, WA14 4DP.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: R Cudworth
Tel: 01484 866777

DRONFIELD
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: Coal Aston Village Hall, Coal Aston, S18 3AY.
Time: 9.30am-4pm
Contact: H V Johnson & Co
Tel: 01909 563394

NEWHAVEN
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: Denton Social Centre, Denton Road, Denton, BN9 0PX.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Eric G Langdon
Tel: 01273 514733

MARCH 25

ROCHESTER
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Masonic Hall, Gundulph Square, ME1 1QD.
Time: 10am-3.30pm
Contact: Chris Rapley
Tel: 07711 677760

MARCH 26

MORLEY
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: St Mary's Church Hall, Commercial Street, LS27 8HZ.
Time: 9.30am-4pm
Contact: H V Johnson & Co
Tel: 01909 563394

MARCH 27

DONCASTER
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: Park Social Club, Eden Grove Road, Edenthorpe, DN3 2LS.
Time: 9.30am-4pm
Contact: H V Johnson & Co
Tel: 01909 563394

FELBRIDGE
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Felbridge Village Hall, Crawley Down Road, RH19 2NT.
Time: 10am-3.30pm
Contact: Chris Rapley
Tel: 07711 677760

PETERBOROUGH
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: The Holiday Inn, Thorpe Wood, PE13 6SG.
Time: 10am-3pm
Contact: Richard Lewis
Tel: 01945 700594

SOUTHPORT
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Royal Clifton Hotel, The Promenade, PR8 1RB.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: R Cudworth
Tel: 01484 866777

MARCH 28

BEVERLEY
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: Norwood Methodist Church Hall, Norwood, HU17 9HN.
Time: 9.30am-4pm
Contact: H V Johnson & Co
Tel: 01909 563394

LOUGHBOROUGH
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Charnwood Bowls Club, Browns Lane, LE11 3HE.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: JRS Fairs
Tel: 01785 259350

APRIL 2

BECKENHAM
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Azelia Hall, Croydon Road, BR3 4DA.
Time: 9.30am-3.30pm
Contact: R&L Stamps
Tel: 020 8395 9285

EASTBOURNE
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Victoria Baptist Church Hall, Eldon Road, BN21 1UE.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Jim Etherington
Tel: 01273 471897

HASTINGS
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Christ Church, London Road, St Leonard's-on-Sea, TN37 6GL.
Time: 10am-3.30pm

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Contact: Chris Rapley
Tel: 07711 677760

HUDDERSFIELD
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: St Thomas Community Centre, Manchester Road, Longroyd Bridge, HD1 3HU.
Time: 9.30am-4pm
Contact: A Campbell
Tel: 01484 681559

LEICESTER
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: The Holiday Inn, Derby Room, St Nicholas Circle, LE1 5LX.
Time: 9.30am-3.30pm
Contact: John Suschitzky
Tel: 01162 350441

LICHFIELD
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: Boley Park Community Hall, Ryknild Street, WS14 9XU.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: JRS Fairs
Tel: 01785 259350

MAIDSTONE
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: Grove Green Community Centre, Grove Green, ME14 5BT.
Time: 10am-3pm
Contact: Brian Stonestreet
Tel: 01622 675784

MANCHESTER
(stamps)
Venue: Sale Grammar School, Marsland Road, Sale, M33 3NH.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: George Wewiora
Tel: 0161 427 2101

RAWRETH
(stamps)
Venue: Parish Hall, Church Lane, SS11 8SH.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Steve Search
Tel: 01702 323682

STOURBRIDGE
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: Platters Café, Victoria Street, DY8 1SP.
Time: 9.30am-2pm
Contact: Chris Proctor
Tel: 07813 260752

APRIL 3

ALFRETON
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Genesis Centre, Main Hall, Church Street, DE55 7AG.
Time: 10.15am-4pm

ALTRINCHAM
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Cresta Court Hotel, Church Street, WA14 4DP.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: R Cudworth
Tel: 01484 866777

APRIL 6

NEATH
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Town Hall, Church Place, SA11 3LL.
Time: 10am-3pm
Contact: Dragon Collectors' Fairs
Tel: 01522 857343

APRIL 7

CARDIFF
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Wesley Church Hall, Cowbridge Road East, CF5 1BA.
Time: 10am-3pm
Contact: Dragon Collectors' Fairs
Tel: 01522 857343

RUGBY
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Rogers Hall, Deerings Road, Hillmorton, CV21 4EN.
Time: 9.30am-3pm
Contact: Simon Hemmings
Tel: 07792 603334

APRIL 8

LONDON
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, Russell Square, WC1H 0DG.
Time: 9am-4pm
Contact: Kate Puleston
Tel: 020 8946 4489

APRIL 9

CHESTER
(stamps)
Venue: Hoole United Reform Church, Hoole Road, CH2 3QU.
Time: 10am-3.30pm
Contact: GBC Promotions
Tel: 0151 486 2610

DERBY
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: Nunsfield House Community Hall, 33 Boulton Road, Alvaston, DE24 0FD.
Time: 9.30am-4pm
Contact: H V Johnson & Co
Tel: 01909 563394

TELFORD
(stamps, postal history, postcards, coins)
Venue: Belmont Community Hall, off Tan Bank Car Park, Wellington Centre, TF1 1LU.
Time: 10am-3pm
Contact: Bob Hemmings
Tel: 01694 720192

WANSTEAD
(stamps, postcards, coins)
Venue: Pastoral Centre, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 51 Cambridge Park, E11 2PR.
Time: 10am-4.30pm
Contact: Roy Bates
Tel: 020 8989 2885

APRIL 10

WOKINGHAM
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: St Crispin's Leisure Centre, London Road, RG40 1SR.
Time: 10am-3pm
Contact: Nigel Stow
Tel: 01923 674999

APRIL 16

EXETER
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: America Hall, De La Rue Way, Pinhoe, EX4 8PX.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Michael Hale
Tel: 01749 677669

HULL
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: St Stephen's Church Hall, Freehold Street, off Spring Bank, HU3 1RB.
Time: 9.30am-4pm
Contact: H V Johnson & Co
Tel: 01909 563394

PADDOCK WOOD
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: Mascalls School, Maidstone Road, TN12 6LT.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Maurice Flack
Tel: 01634 714584

SITTINGBOURNE
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Carmel Hall, Ufton Lane, off West Street, ME10 1JB.
Time: 10am-3.30pm
Contact: Chris Rapley
Tel: 07711 677760

THATCHAM
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: Thatcham Memorial Hall, Bath Road (A4), RG18 3AG.
Time: 9.30am-2.30pm
Contact: Paula Cant
Tel: 01256 415699

APRIL 17

ALTRINCHAM
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Cresta Court Hotel, Church Street, WA14 4DP.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: R Cudworth
Tel: 01484 866777

DRONFIELD
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: Coal Aston Village Hall, Coal Aston, S18 3AY.
Time: 9.30am-4pm
Contact: H V Johnson & Co
Tel: 01909 563394

WINCHESTER
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: Badgers Farm Community Centre, Badgers Farm Road, SO22 4QB.
Time: 10am-3.30pm
Contact: Chris Rapley
Tel: 07711 677760

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SELECTED UK PHILATELIC SOCIETY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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MARCH 9
LEAMINGTON & WARWICK PS
Taunton Postal History by Nick Bridgwater
Venue: Oddfellows Hall, Clarence Terrace, Warwick Road, Leamington Spa, CV32 5LD.
Time: 7pm
Contact: Nick Bridgwater
Tel: 01926 423685

ROCHDALE PS
Russian Civil War by Mark Everiss
Venue: Unitarian Chapel, Clover Street, OL12 6TP.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Neil Wharmby
Tel: 01706 665698

MARCH 10
BRISTOL PS
Wiltshire Federation Competition
Venue: Redland Park United Reformed Church, Whiteladies Road, BS6 6SA.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Rosemary Atkins
Tel: 01179 504427

MARCH 12
LEYTONSTONE, WANSTEAD & DISTRICT PS
Egypt & Grenada by Graham Coles
Venue: Wanstead House, The Green, Wanstead, E11 2NT.
Time: 2.45pm
Contact: Roy Bates
Tel: 020 8989 2885

MARCH 14
MID-SUSSEX PS
Wei Hai Wei by Nick Kerridge
Venue: King Edward Hall, 24 High Street, Lindfield RH16 2HH.
Time: 2pm
Contact: Jim Etherington
Tel: 01273 471897

MARCH 15
WIMBLEDON & DISTRICT PS
Protective Overprints & Underprints by Andy Donaldson
Venue: Residents' Pavilion, 129 Grand Drive, SW20 9LY.
Time: 8pm
Contact: Barbara Priddy
Tel: 020 8946 6224

MARCH 16
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON PS
Bulgaria Stamps & Postal History by Mike Whittaker
Venue: Community Sports Centre, Alcester Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 9DH.
Time: 7pm
Contact: Colin Fountain
Tel: 01789 841606

MARCH 17
BURNLEY & DISTRICT PS
Gordon Watson Memorial GB Lecture by John Cooper
Venue: Central Methodist Church, Hargreaves Street, Burnley, BB11 1DU.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: B W Evans
Tel: 01282 437272

CALEDONIAN PS
Papua New Guinea by Jean Osborne
Venue: Room GH542, Graham Hills Building, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow GH1 1XP.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Russell Walker
Tel: 0141 639 4212

MARCH 18
BEXLEY PS
Members' Displays: Letters U, V, W
Venue: Freemantle Hall, Bexley High Street, DA5 1AA.
Time: 7.45pm
Contact: A Smith
Tel: 01255 559210

MARCH 19
ITALY & COLONIES SC
London Meeting
Venue: Union Jack Club, Sandell Street, London, SE1 8UJ.
Time: 1pm
Contact: R Harlow
Tel: 020 8977 8737

MARCH 22
HINCKLEY & DISTRICT PS
Annual Competition & Auction
Venue: Sixth Form College, Hinckley Academy, Butt Lane, Hinckley LE10 1LE
Time: 7.15pm
Contact: Bob Mason
Tel: 01455 250745

HUNTINGDON PS
St Lucia by Allister Kinnon
Venue: Village Hall, High Street, Hemingford Abbots, PE28 9AH.
Time: 7pm
Contact: David Birkert
Tel: 01480 468037

SPALDING & DISTRICT SC
Beryl's Birds by Richard Moss
Venue: The Frasier Room, Gosberton Road, Surfleet, PE11 4AB.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Frank Wilson
Tel: 01775 766117

MARCH 23
BEDFORD PS
St Lucia Postcards by Alister Kinnon
Venue: The Bunyan Meeting Free Church, Mill Street, Bedford MK40 3EU.
Time: 7pm
Contact: Julie Barnard
Tel: 01234 765092

BROMLEY & BECKENHAM PS
Great Britain before 1952
Venue: Public Hall, Bromley Road, Beckenham BR3 5JE.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: David Rennie
Tel: 020 8778 7001

MARCH 24
COCKERMOUTH SC
Recent Acquisitions & Works in Progress
Venue: Cockermouth Conservative Club, 7 Main Street, Cockermouth CA13 9LE.
Time: 11.30am
Contact: Mike Roberts
Tel: 07885 839622

MARCH 28
FERNDOWN & WEST MOORS P&PC
Great Britain Line-Engraved by Roger Marsh
Venue: Day Centre, Shopping Precinct, Ferndown, BH22 9JP.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Paul Barry
Tel: 07932 581791

MARCH 31
MAIDSTONE & MID-KENT PS
1957 World Scout Jamboree by J Etherington
Venue: St Paul's Church Hall, Boxley Road, Maidstone ME14 2AH.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Brian Stonestreet
Tel: 01622 675784

APRIL 5
WEST LONDON PS
Quarantined & Disinfected Mail in the Age of Plague by Dennis Vandervelde
Venue: The Church Hall, Woodlands Avenue, Acton, London W3 9BU.
Time: 8pm
Contact: Christopher Oliver
Tel: 020 8940 9833

APRIL 6
GRIMSBY & DISTRICT PS
Falklands Islands by Robert McMillan
Venue: Grimsby Central Hall, Duncombe Street, Grimsby, DN32 7EG.
Time: 7pm
Contact: Trevor Smith
Tel: 01469 572354

POYNTON PS
Czechoslovakia by E Wheatley
Venue: The North Room, Poynton Community Centre, Park Lane, Poynton, SK12 1RB.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Ron Phelps
Tel: 01625 877643

APRIL 7
KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES PS
The Write Stuff by Wendy Buckle
Venue: Surbiton Library New Hall, Ewell Road, Surbiton, KT6 6AG.
Time: 8pm
Contact: Christopher Oliver
Tel: 020 8940 9833

APRIL 11
MID-SUSSEX PS
Hungary Postal History by Bill Hedley
Venue: King Edward Hall, 24 High Street, Lindfield, RH16 2HH.
Time: 2pm
Contact: Jim Etherington
Tel: 01273 471897

APRIL 12
BURY ST EDMUNDS & DISTRICT PS
Battle for the Pacific by Bill Trower
Venue: Church Institute, The Street, Great Barton, IP31 2NP.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Rod Finn
Tel: 01379 898292

CRAWLEY & DISTRICT PS
Latin America Airmails by Derek Pillage
Venue: Furnace Green Community Centre, Ashburnham Road, Furnace Green, RH10 6QZ
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Richard Smith
Tel: 01293 408598

SOLIHULL PS
Ireland by John Sussex
Venue: Solihull Cricket & Tennis Club, Marsh Lane, Solihull B91 2PF.
Time: 8pm
Contact: Paul Woodness
Tel: 01564 776879

KIRKCUDBRIGHT PS

Kirkcudbright Philatelic Society held a special celebratory dinner in January to mark its 50th anniversary.

Held at the home of the President, Alexander McCulloch, the event was attended by representatives from the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies and the Royal Philatelic Society London. The guest speaker was David Beech, the former curator of the British Library's philatelic collections.

Extraordinarily, a good number of the founder members were present, reminiscing on how they were among the first to enjoy the discovery of the famous Kirkcudbright cover, the first day cover franked with 10 Penny Blacks which is now part of the Royal Philatelic Collection.

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☛ *Continued from page 101* **The lengths we go to to creating this auction for You...**

Digital scanners are a wonderful invention but still no substitute for the human eye. Even though we use a £5,000 daylight calibrated scanner …

…for the truest, most colour-accurate images our team edits the colour of All 3,511 stamps illustrated closely colour-matching to the original stamps

…. So now you may know the reason why the stamps you win actually look like the stamps you saw in the auction catalogue … which may be something that you have to be careful of when bidding in other auctions with fuzzy low quality images … usually there's a reason why collectors compliment us by cutting out our stamp images … now you know why

Of course, I can hear you saying, "none of this comes cheap" … and it is true. Just to print, post/distribute 6,250 physical catalogues to collectors like you, all over the world costs

20 boxes = one stamp collection. 365 albums (one for each day of the year) = another collection U P A handled

£50,000 **each auction**. Now consider that an additional 1,500 collectors/dealers globally view each U P A auction catalogue "virtually" (nice word that) on-line – which makes it all the more amazing that 90% of bidders are successful. Just try comparing that with other stamp auctions – especially public stamp auctions that only have 300 different bidders … and unlike U P A cannot/**will not guarantee each lot**.

Possibly, just possibly, there's one tiny question hanging unspoken in the back of your mind … and that is …

"how can any auction sustain such high quality production costs and be more competitive than others?"

… and the reason why can only be attributed to '**scale**' … when you offer Massive Philatelic Choice in a **Unique Reducing Estimate System** it permits the collector to benefit from the most cost-effective system of handling stamps in the industry … put simply you benefit from the fact that **simply everything sells** – compare this to the stamp fair or dealer where you return time and time again to see nothing but the same old chestnuts offered for sale … so that in time you stop going back. This is the reason why - if you have nigh on 2,000 different bidders (90% successful) that you will see massive NEW choice each time you participate and why each time (I hope) you will wish to participate in supporting this unique collector-friendly auction system …

Finally, and I've never, in 43 years full-time philately, ever seen this written about before … collectors have the chance to determine / set values for themselves. Let me explain, here's an example – I saw a fine used £5 orange advertised recently for £7,500 on blued paper and another on white paper for £3,500. Only one example was illustrated … not the one at £7,500. The only thing you know is that a stated to be fine used £5 orange on blued paper is being offered to you for £7,500. You simply must see a picture, better still scans (for this value of front and back) to determine how well-centred the actual stamp is, is it creased – does it have any trace of crayon mark, are there any short perfs, pinholes or creases … is it guaranteed … ?

The problem with 'fixed' price expensive stamps is that one stamp may be worth £7,500 but one price doesn't suit all … hence the condition of another may appear fine but is it? What is a fair price? In stamps – unless truly an 'industry-standard' unmounted mint 1948 £1 Silver Wedding that everybody understands the standard expected … each stamp commands its own price / value which is why I urge you to seek comparisons so that the variations on scarce expensive stamps such as heavy / light postmark are reflected in the price you ultimately pay … so bidding for such stamps at auction is a good way for you to factor in condition into the winning price you, or somebody else pays …

If you're NEW to U P A, aged 18+ (!), reside in the UK, USA, West Europe, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, there's a good reason why I'm offering you your 1st £55 U P A auction winnings FREE – it is so that YOU CAN TEST my auction FREE of CHARGE and see for yourself what extraordinary value and service we offer … that's like walking into a shop and walking out with £55 worth of groceries or stamps or even accessories of your choice **without paying** …

…so IF You're MISSING stamps from your collection – You NEED U P A – I urge you to take my 1st £55 FREE offer to start you off NOW … simply turn to any U P A coupon page to request your 1st FREE 1.2kg 370 page catalogue or telephone 01451 861111 or visit www.upastampauctions.co.uk – auctions and request your *FREE* catalogue on line. Our system will detect if you're NEW to U P A and automatically credit you your 1st £55 FREE …

I urge you, support U P A guaranteed buyer's premium free auctions – *DO IT NOW* …

001 ALDERNEY
Longis Nature Reserve

002 ALGERIA
Algerian Diplomacy Day

008 ANDORRA
International Motorcycle Trials

011 BARBADOS
Windmills

YOUR IN-DEPTH GUIDE TO THE LATEST RELEASES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

This directory lists Great Britain first, followed by other countries in alphabetical order. It is limited to countries in which stamp issues are sold in post offices and for which reliable information is available. We aim to keep our listing as up-to-date as possible, but in attempting to provide more comprehensive detail than other guides we do not necessarily list every country each month. The three-digit number which appears before the date of each issue is for cross-referencing with the Thematic Checklist at the end of this section.

ALDERNEY
(last listed in Jan 2016 issue)

001 Feb 16, 2016
Fauna & Flora of Longis Nature Reserve
Design: Two Degrees North, after photographs.
Printing: litho, BDT.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 10.
42p eelgrass (on dune)
56p glanville fritillary butterfly
57p yarrow broomrape
62p meadow pipit
68p sand crocus
77p greater white-toothed shrew
Miniature sheet:
42p, 56p, 57p, 62p, 68p, 77p, designs as sheet stamps, se-tenant
Border: view in the reserve

ALGERIA
(last listed in March 2016)

002 Oct 8, 2015
Algerian Diplomacy Day
Design: Ali Kerbouche.
Printing: litho, Bank of Algeria.
Sheet stamp:
25.00dh the Algerian Foreign Ministry building, Algiers

ANDORRA
(last listed in August 2015)

003 May 8, 2015
Europa 2015. Old Toys
Design: Enric Cardus.
Printing: litho, PhilaPoste, France.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 20 (5 x 4).
0.95€ catapult

004 June 12, 2015
700th anniversary of Meetings of the Co-Princes of Andorra
Design: Stéphanie Ghinéa.
Engraving: Eve Luquet.
Printing: recess, PhilaPoste, France.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 20 (5 x 4).
1.25€ sculpture by Luigi Teruggi, of the meeting of the Co-Princes in Andorra
Note: the original Co-Princes were the Bishop of Urgell in Spain and the Count of Foix in France

005 June 19, 2015
The Highest Peak of Andorra
Design: Helena Guárdia (artwork).
Printing: litho, PhilaPoste, France.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 20 (4 x 5).
0.78€ Pic del Comapedrosa (2943m), as if seen from the air

006 July 4, 2015
Art. The Venice Biennale
Design: Stéphanie Ghinéa.
Printing: litho, PhilaPoste, France.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 20.
3.05€ sculpture by Agusti Roque (b1942, Barcelona)

007 July 17, 2015
Folk Dances of Andorra
Design: Sophie Beaujard.
Engraving: Sarah Bougault.
Printing: recess and litho, PhilaPoste, France.
Miniature sheet:
1.90€ dancing the contrapàs at Ordino
Border: church and houses of Ordino

008 Aug 29, 2015
International & French Motorcycle Trials, Vallnord & La Massana, Aug-Sep 2015
Design: 9MK.
Printing: PhilaPoste, France.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 20 (5 x 4).
1.20€ trial logos and biker in competition

009 Oct 2, 2015
Flora & Fauna
Design: André Lavergne and Stéphanie Ghinéa.
Printing: recess and litho, PhilaPoste, France.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 50.
0.76€ branch from bush, flower cluster and common thyme, *Thymus vulgaris*
0.95€ mountain apollo butterfly, *Parnassus apollo*

010 Oct 7, 2015
Ramon d'Areny-Plandolit, 1915-1996
Design & Engraving: Pierre Bara.
Printing: recess, PhilaPoste, France.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 40.
1.25 portrait of the Andorran photographer and philatelist, and two maximum cards using the 1930s first French Post Office stamp issue of Andorra
Note: the cards depict the Chapel of Our Lady of Mertixell and the bridge of San Antoni de la Guella

BARBADOS
(last listed in August 2015)

011 June 23, 2015
Windmills of Barbados
Printing: litho, BDT.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 25.
10c Graeme Hill Windmill
65c Balls Windmill
$2.20 St Nicholas Abbey Windmill
$2.50 Morgan Lewis Windmill

BERMUDA
(last listed in August 2015)

012 May 21, 2015
Reef Fish
Design: Sheila Semos and Keno K Simmons.
Printing: litho, BDT.
Sheet stamps:
35c bi-colour coney
70c blue angelfish
80c grey snapper
85c queen parrotfish
95c yellowhead wrasse

013 July 16, 2015
Definitives. Bermuda in Bloom
Designs: from photographs.
Printing: litho, Lowe-Martin. Perf 12¾.
Sheet stamps:
50c flower and tree of *Bauhinia variegata*
$1.00 flowers and tree of *Nerium oleander*
$1.15 flowers and clump of *Macfadyena unguis-cati*
$1.20 flowers and clump of *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*
$1.35 flowers and tree of *Delonix regia*
$1.55 flowers and vine of *Solanum wendlandii*
Note: the first issue in this series was in 2014 (listed in August 2015)

014 Sept 17, 2015
150th anniversary of the First Bermuda Postage Stamps
Printing: litho.
Sheet stamps:
50c Bermuda 1865 1d rose red, and hand using quill pen
$1.15 Bermuda 1877 2d bright blue, and hand writing with fountain pen
$1.20 Bermuda 1873 3d orange-buff, and hands using typewriter
$1.35 Bermuda 1865 6d dull purple, and hands using computer keyboard
$1.65 Bermuda 1865 1s green, and hands using keyboard of tablet

COCOS (Keeling) ISLANDS
(last listed in Nov 2015)

015 Aug 25, 2015
Islands of Cocos

Design: Lisa Christensen.
Printing: litho, Bambra McKellar.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 50 arranged in se-tenant pairs.

70c	Pulu Klapa Satu
70c	Pulu Maraya
$1.40	Pulu Blan Madar
$1.40	Pulu Beras (Prison Island)

Note: all islands depicted are uninhabited

COOK ISLANDS
(last listed in Sept 2015)

016 June 23, 2014
Tourism
Printing: litho, BDT.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 16 arranged in blocks of 4.

30c	relaxing in beach hammock
30c	shopping
30c	dancing
30c	dining out

Sheet stamps: sheets of 16 arranged in blocks of 4.

50c	attending a church service
50c	scootering
50c	hiking
50c	snorkelling

Sheet stamps: sheets of 16 arranged in blocks of 4.

$1	kayaking
$1	swimming in ocean
$1	scuba diving (with wreck and turtle)
$1	fishing

Sheet stamps: sheets of 16 arranged in blocks of 4.

$1.70	vaka sailing
$1.70	windsurfing
$1.70	kitesurfing
$1.70	paddle-boarding

Sheet stamps: sheets of 16 arranged in blocks of 4.

$3.80	whale watching
$3.80	sightseeing (at a waterfall)
$3.80	trip in glass-bottomed boat
$3.80	birdwatching (with frigate birds)

Sheet stamps: sheets of 16 arranged in blocks of 4.

$4.10	playing rugby
$4.10	playing beach volleyball
$4.10	playing golf
$4.10	bike riding

017 Sept 12, 2014
Definitives. Insects
Design: all designs depict tropical forest vegetation (tree ferns).
Printing: litho, BDT.
Sheet stamps: arranged in se-tenant composite strips of 3, each stamp with a basal tab.

$4	western honey bee, *Apis mellifera*
$11.50	castor semi-looper moth, *Achaea janata*
$13.60	spotted ladybird, *Henosepilachna vigintioctopunctata*

Tabs: colour-coded postal rate information

018 Nov 28, 2014
Bird. The Spotless Crake
Design: Alison Dittko. All designs carry the WWF logo.
Printing: litho, BDT.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 20. Designs have white frames.

$1.00	spotless crake, *Porzana tabuensis*, on water lilies
$1.30	spotless crake on ground
$1.50	spotless crake perched on stems growing in water
$1.70	spotless crake walking on shoreline

Sheetlet (4 x 4): 16 stamps arranged in 4 vertical or horizontal strips or blocks of 4, in staggered format. Designs bleed to stamp edges.

$1.00 x 4	spotless crake on water lilies
$1.30 x 4	spotless crake on ground
$1.50 x 4	spotless crake perched on stems growing in water
$1.70 x 4	spotless crake walking on shoreline

Miniature sheet: design composite with border.

$7.50	spotless crake on mudflat

Note: the species is considered endangered in the Cook Islands

019 Dec 12, 2014
Christmas 2014. Paintings
Design: Melissa Cato and Alison Dittko.
Printing: litho, BDT.
Miniature sheet:

$1.50	*Nativity* by Giotto Di Bondone
$1.50	*Adoration of the Kings* by Jan Gossaert
$1.50	*Adoration of the Shepherds* by Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio

020 Jan 5, 2015
Chinese Lunar New Year. Year of the Sheep
Design: Sophia Zhang. Both designs show sheep drawn in Chinese style.
Printing: litho, BDT.
Miniature sheet: two diamond-format stamps se-tenant tip-to-tip.

$3.40	red sheep holding a ganoderma (plant) in its mouth
$4.10	blue sheep holding a ganoderma in its mouth

Border: golden brown sheep and Chinese characters in gold
Note: the miniature sheet is cut to shape of the sheep, whose form is based on an ancient Chinese ceramic

CYPRUS
(last listed in Oct 2015)

021 Sept 14, 2015
Castles of Northern Cyprus
Design: Prodomos Apostolou (paintings).
Printing: litho, Giesecke & Devrient Matsoukis, Athens.
Sheetlet (4 x 2): 8 stamps with partially illustrated border.

0.04€	Buffavento castle

Sheetlet (4 x 2): 8 stamps with partially illustrated border.

0.34€	Kantara castle

Sheetlet (4 x 2): 8 stamps with partially illustrated border.

0.41€	St Hilarion castle

Sheetlet (4 x 2): 8 stamps with partially illustrated border.

0.75€	Kyrenia city walls

Note: all fortifications depicted are in the Turkish sector of Cyprus

022 Sept 14, 2015
150th anniversary of the International Telecommunications Union
Design: Nicosia Ierodiaconou, after photograph.
Printing: litho, Giesecke & Devrient Matsoukis, Athens.
Sheetlet (4 x 2):

0.64€	engineers test the sending of radio signals by Marconi Telegraph

Note: Guglielmo Marconi sent his assistant George Kemp, Kemp's nephew Herbert, and William Henry Preece, a British Post Office engineer to the island of Flat Holm in the Bristol Channel on May 13-14, 1897, where they received a signal in morse code sent by Marconi from Lavernock Point in Glamorgan, the first radio transmission over open water. The stamp image is presumably of the trio on Flat Holm

023 Sept 14, 2015
Traditional Cypriot Folk Crafts
Design: Theodoros Kakoullis.
Printing: litho, Giesecke & Devrient Matsoukis, Athens.
Sheetlet (4 x 2): 8 stamps arranged in chequer-formation, creating se-tenant pairs both horizontally and vertically.

0.34€ x 4	decorative arts: pumpkin carving with ornaments
0.34€ x 4	carving: handmade four-legged upright chair

Sheetlet (4 x 2): 8 stamps arranged in chequer-formation, creating se-tenant pairs both horizontally and vertically.

0.64€ x 4	pottery: clay jugs shaped with human body forms
0.64€ x 4	metal work: ritual vessels with silver bottle

024 Nov 19, 2015
Christmas & New Year
Design: Yiota Tsaklidou and Melanie Efstathiasou.
Printing: litho, Giesecke & Devrient Matsoukis, Athens.
Sheetlet (4 x 2): 8 stamps with illustrated border.

0.34€	the New Year custom of throwing olive leaves into the fire

Sheetlet (4 x 2): 8 stamps with illustrated border.

0.41€	icon in impressed silver-gilt: the Virgin Mary holding Christ

Sheetlet (4 x 2): 8 stamps with illustrated border.

0.64€	the sending of Christmas and New Year messages to loved ones

Miniature sheet:

2.00€	*The Birth of Christ*, icon from Panayia Agrou Elousa church, by Solon Frangoulides, painted 1932-1934

ESTONIA
(last listed in Dec 2015)

025 Oct 16, 2015
Lighthouses. Tahkuna
Design: Roman Matkiewicz.
Printing: litho, AS Vaba Maa.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 10 with illustrated tabs at left and right.

0.55€	Tahkuna lighthouse, on Hiiumaa island, constructed 1875, rebuilt 1951, and locational map

Maximum card: the original lighthouse

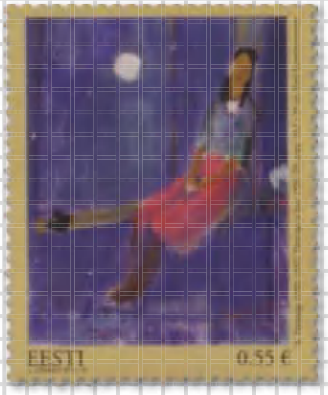
026 Oct 16, 2015
Definitive. Posthorn series
Design: Lembit Löhmus.
Printing: litho, AS Vaba Maa. Imprint date '2015' and issue number '27' incorporated in the design.
Self-adhesive sheet stamp: sheets of 25. Stamps separately spaced within square rouletted labels which have the same colouring as the stamp design.

0.10€	posthorn, in deep green

012 BERMUDA
Reef Fish

016 COOK ISLANDS
Tourism

021 CYPRUS
Castles of Northern Cyprus



028 ESTONIA
Treasures of Estonian Art Museums

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027 Nov 13, 2015
175th anniversary of the First Postage Stamp
Design: Lembit Löhmus.
Printing: litho, AS Vaba Maa.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 16, with horizontal strips of 2, 3 or 4 forming a composite design.
0.55€ central part of a falsified strip of three mint Penny Blacks (1840), showing one whole stamp and two half-stamps
Note: this strip is a falsity because all the stamps have the same corner letters, SH

028 Nov 17, 2015
Treasures of the Estonian Art Museums. Karl Pärsimägi, 1902-1942
Design: Lembit Löhmus.
Printing: litho, AS Vaba Maa.
Sheetlet: 2 blocks of 4 separated by a large-format gutter label.
0.55€ x 8 *A Girl & The Moon*, oil painting, 1936
Label: the painting
Note: Pärsimägi moved to France in 1937. From 1941 he was imprisoned in the Drancy and Oswiecim concentration camps

029 Nov 19, 2015
Christmas 2015
Design: Ülle Marks and Jüri Kass.
Printing: litho, AS Vaba Maa. Die-cut perf 11¼ with elliptical cut-outs at top and base.
Self-adhesive sheet stamps: sheets of 10, set within rectangular-rouletted labels, design composite with borders.
0.55€ symbolic Christmas tree with lights flaring in circles
1.20€ symbolic eight-pointed star with reflecting lights

030 Dec 2, 2015
150th anniversary of the Tartu University Meteorological Observatory
Design: Jaan Saar.
Printing: litho, AS Vaba Maa.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 10 (2 x 5).
0.65€ tower at Tartu University, 19th century, and portrait of Arthur von Oettingen, who made meteorological observations there
Tabs: anemometer

FIJI
(last listed in April 2015)

031 Dec 14, 2013
Christmas 2013
Printing: litho, Southern Colour Print, New Zealand.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 40.
40c decorative bell with reflection of Suva church
65c decorative bell with reflection of tagimoucia flower
$1.20 decorative bell with reflection of Fijian family of four on beach
$3.00 decorative bell with reflection of Fijian children

Note: the intervening Southern Cross Submarine Cable issue was listed in July 2014

032 July 28, 2014
Sharks of Fiji
Design: Pravin Sen, from photographs.
Printing: litho, Southern Colour Print, NZ.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 40.
50c blacktip reef shark, *Carcharhinus melanopterus*
90c silky shark, *Carcharhinus faciformis*
$1.20 oceanic whitetip shark, *Carcharhinus longimaus*
$5.00 big-eye thresher shark, *Alopias superciliosus*

033 Aug 8, 2014
Centenary of the Grand Pacific Hotel, Suva
Design: Pravin Sen, from photographs.
Printing: litho, Southern Colour Print, NZ.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 40.
40c hotel driveway
65c lounge
90c pool and poolside restaurant
$1.20 lounge bar
$5 main façade

034 Dec 4, 2014
Christmas 2014. Places of Worship
Design: Pravin Sen, from photographs.
Printing: litho, Southern Colour Print, NZ.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 40.
40c Suva Fiji Temple of the Church of Latter-Day Saints, Samabula, Suva (Mormon, opened in 2000)
65c Church of The Holy Redeemer, Levuka (Anglican, founded 1904)
$3 Baker Memorial Church, Nausori (Methodist, constucted from 1910)
$10 Church of St Francis Xavier, Navunibitu, Ra (Roman Catholic mission church, completed 1917)

035 Feb 23, 2015
Fiji's Rare Blue Coral
Design: Pravin Sen.
Printing: litho, Southern Colour Print, NZ
Sheet stamps: sheets of 50 (2 x 25).
65c *Heliopora coerula*
$5 tips of *Heliopora coerula*
Miniature sheet: design composite with border.
65c *Heliopora coerula*
$5 tips of *Heliopora coerula*
Border: ocean floor
Note: hard coral with a skeleton of aragonite and iron salts, which gives it a blue pigmentation

036 April 30, 2015
The Flying Fox of Taveuni Island
Printing: litho, Southern Colour Print, NZ.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 40.
40c flying fox, or Fijian monkey-faced bat, *Mirimiri acrodonta*, clinging to branch
65c flying fox in flight over forest canopy
90c head of flying fox, at night
$10 flying fox at rest, hanging from branch

GUERNSEY
(last listed in Jan 2016)

037 Jan 22, 2016
Chinese Lunar New Year. Year of the Monkey
Design: Chrissy Lau.
Printing: litho, Lowe-Martin.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 10 (2 x 5) with illustrated borders.
42p Three Plenties Monkey
56p Fire Monkey
57p Aristocratic Monkey
62p Noble and Successful Monkey
68p- Mother and Baby Monkey
77p Three Wealthy Monkeys
Borders: Chinese character for 'monkey' in gold
Miniature sheet (2 x 3):
42p, 56p, 57p, 62p, 68p, 77p, designs as sheet stamps (se-tenant)
Border: Chinese character for 'monkey' in gold

038 Feb 17, 2016
Animals & Birds of Guernsey
Design: Andrew Robinson, from photographs.
Printing: litho, International Security Printers, (base labels), with value and location identifier printed thermographically by machine.
Post & Go vending machine labels:
† donkey, and coastal scene
† Guernsey cow, and martello tower
† Guernsey golden goat, and meadow
† puffin, and cliffs
† Atlantic grey seal
† blonde hedgehog
Note: issued philatelically in set with six different pre-printed postal rates

039 Feb 17, 2016
Endangered Species. The Philippine Eagle
Design: Joel Kirk.
Printing: litho, Cartor.
Miniature sheet: design composite with border.
£3.00 head of Philippine eagle, *Pithecophaga jeffreyi*, and tropical forest

KENYA
(last listed in March 2015)

040 Dec 11, 2013
50th anniversary of Independence
Design: Kassam Asgarali and Benjamin Mogaka, from photographs.
Printing: litho, Cartor. Perforated (sheetlets) or imperforate with printed simulated perforations (miniature sheet).
Sheetlet (5 x 5): titled 'Social & Economic Development'.
30/- first aircraft to land in Kenya, 1920
30/- railway locomotive of 1904
30/- East Africa Railway (terminus) at Mombassa Harbour
30/- Jamhuri High School, Ngara Nairobi (founded in 1906 as railway technical school)
30/- Prince of Wales School, Nairobi (founded in 1931)
30/- Machakos Girls School, Machakos
30/- Royal Technical College, University of Nairobi (sculpture on campus)
30/- Kenyatta University, Thika (students and building)
30/- Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture & Technology
30/- city of Nairobi (buildings)
30/- King George VI Hospital (exterior, archive photograph)
30/- Kenyatta National Hospital (archive photograph, c1970s)
30/- Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (aerial view)
30/- mobile library (and reclining camel)
30/- Kenya National Library, Nairobi
30/- horticulture: flower-growing
30/- poultry farming: chickens outdoors
30/- maize fairming: maize plot

031 FIJI
Christmas 2013

037 GUERNSEY
Year of the Monkey

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NEAREST TRAIN STATION

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BY CAR

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30/- beef farming: young cattle
30/- dairy farming: dairy cows in yard
30/- compulsory free primary education: children assembled outside school
30/- Kenya National Adult Literacy Survey medallion
30/- highway interchange at Muranga'a (formerly Fort Hall)
30/- highway access and interchange at Globe Cinema Complex
30/- oil prospecting rig (at dawn)

Sheetlet (5 x 5): titled 'Political Events'.
75/- Uhuru Mulgai Kenyatta and William Ruto, President and Vice-President in 2013
75/- Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip at their coronation ceremony, 1953
75/- meeting of delegates negotiating independence at Lancaster House, London, 1960-1963
75/- Dedan Kaciuri Waciuri, leader of the Mau Mau uprising, 1952-1960
75/- Mau Mau activists in the 1950s or early 1960s
75/- The Kapenguria Six nationalists arrested in 1952: Bildad Kaggia, Kung'u Karumba, Jomo Kenyatta, Fred Kubai, Paul Ngei, and Achieng Oneko
75/- prison building where the Kapenguria Six were held
75/- lowering of Union Jack at Independence ceremony, December 12, 1963
75/- Munyao Lisoi hoisting the Kenya flag on Mount Kenya, 1963
75/- promulgation of the new constitution, 1963
75/- President Jomo Kenyatta speaking at the 'first transition' of government
75/- President Daniel Arap Moi at 'second transition' of government, 1978
75/- President Mwai Kibaki at 'third transition' of government, 2002
75/- President Uhuru Kenyatta taking oath of office, 2013
75/- exterior of the Parliament building
75/- first cabinet meeting, 1963
75/- coats of arms of Kenya from colonial period and after independence
75/- flags of Kenya from colonial period and after independence
75/- maps showing provinces of Kenya in colonial period, and modern county boundaries
75/- the Kenya Judiciary building
75/- the Kenyatta Mausoleum
75/- building which housed the Provincial Commissioner's Office, built 1913
75/- Nyayo House, Nairobi (government offices and provincial administration)
75/- administrative group including first Governor of Nairobi, Hugh Cholmondeley, 3rd Baron Delamare
75/- Kenya Defence Force on security patrol in Somalia, 21st century

Sheetlet (5 x 5): titled 'National Heritage'.
90/- ruins of Fort Jesus, founded in 1565
90/- Kenya-Uganda Railway, constructed from 1896 (historic view)
90/- Nyali Bridge, built in 1900 (historic view)
90/- ruins of Gedi, Swahili village and port, 13th century
90/- first Mombasa Post Office building, built in 1920 (current view)
90/- first General Post Office in Mombasa, built in 1920 (historic view)
90/- first General Post Office in Nairobi, built in 1944
90/- Kenya National Archives building, built in 1944
90/- Macmillan Library building, built in 1925
90/- Nairobi National Museum, founded in 1890 (modern view)
90/- coins of Mombasa, 1885
90/- Maasai Mora tribespeople
90/- Luo traditional homestead
90/- Karen Blixen Museum, near Nairobi
90/- Kipande House, Nairobi, built in 1930s, now Kenya Commercial Bank (stamp has the date 1913, when the site was opened as railway depot)
90/- Laikipia camel caravan
90/- 1912-1921 5r dull purple stamp of East Africa & Uganda with 'Kenya' overprint in red, and 65c stamp from 1963 Independence issue
90/- Chuka drummers in performance
90/- obokono (musical instrument)
90/- Vasco Da Gama pillar in Malindi
90/- athlete Naftali Temu (10,000m Olympic gold medallist, 1968)
90/- athletes Pamela Jelimo (800m Olympic gold medallist, 2008) and Janeth Jepkosgei (800m World Champion, 2007) with Kenyan flag
90/- athlete Ezekiel Kemboi (3000m steeplechase Olympic gold medallist, 2004)
90/- athlete David Rudisha (800m Olympic gold medallist, 2012)
90/- Kenyan national rugby squad in training

Sheetlet (5 x 5): titled 'Wildlife & Tourism'.
110/- lion
110/- elephant
110/- leopard
110/- rhinoceros (with baby)
110/- African buffalo (with oxpeckers)
110/- hippopotamus
110/- cheetah
110/- giraffe
110/- zebra
110/- warthog
110/- wildebeest (during migration)
110/- bongo
110/- impala
110/- hyena
110/- crocodiles (on River Tana)
110/- flamingos (on Lake Nakunu)
110/- ostriches
110/- colobus monkey
110/- falcon (in flight)
110/- Longonot Crater
110/- Thompson Falls
110/- Mount Kenya
110/- Lake Turkana
110/- total eclipse of the Sun

Miniature sheet: titled 'Presidents of Kenya'.
150/- Jomo Kenyatta, President 1963-1975
150/- Daniel Arap Moi, President 1978-2002
150/- Mwai Kibaki, President 2002-2013
150/- Uhuru Mulgai Kenyatta, President 2013

041 December 11, 2013

50th anniversary of Independence. Finance, Posts & Commerce

Printing: litho, Cartor.

Miniature sheet (2 x 2):
30/- East African coins, 1910-1965
30/- Kenyan coins, 1966-2010
30/- East African banknotes
30/- Kenyan banknotes (all with portrait of Jomo Kenyatta)

Miniature sheet (3 x 2):
30/- mail runner, 1880
30/- postman delivering letters at a marketplace, 1902
30/- red postbox, 1920
30/- modern Kenya Post delivery van
30/- bank of private (rented) mail delivery boxes
30/- red pillar box

042 Dec 20, 2013

50th anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Kenya & People's Republic of China

Printing: litho, Henan Post Printing Factory, China.

Sheet stamps:
30/- flags of Kenya and China; Chinese and Kenyan vases, Chinese junk (from old print)
110/- handshake between Presidents Uhuru Kenyatta and Xi Jingping, flags, red-crowned cranes, *Grus japonicus*

Miniature sheet: design composite with border.
150/- handshake between Presidents Uhuru Kenyatta and Xi Jingping, flags, red-crowned cranes

043 Jan, 2014

Definitives. Birds of Kenya

Printing: litho. Perf 14, with elliptical cut-outs on vertical sides.

Sheet stamps:
30/- red-and-yellow barbet, *Trachyphonus erythrocephalus*
35/- scarlet-chested sunbird, *Chalcomitra senegalensis*
50/- eastern yellow-billed hornbill, *Tockus flavirostris*
55/- greater honeyguide, *Indicator indicator*
65/- superb starling, *Spreo superbus*
70/- African fish eagle, *Haliaeetus vocifer*
80/- lesser flamingo, *Phoeniconaias minor*
100/- Hadada ibis, *Bostrychia hagedash*
110/- Ross's turaco, *Musophaga rossae*

044 Feb 1, 2015

Bicentenary of the Birth of Don Bosco

Printing: litho.

Sheet stamp: each stamp se-tenant with label.
35/- portrait of the Italian priest John (Don) Bosco, 1815-1888, canonised in 1994, who dedicated his life to helping disadvantaged children

Label: quotation

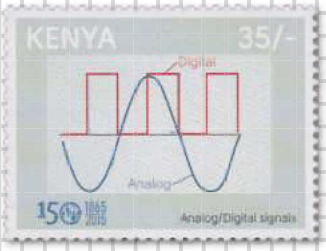
Miniature sheet:
100/- Don Bosco with children, and arid landscape

045 2015

150th anniversary of the International Telecommunications Union

Printing: litho.

043 KENYA
Definitives. Birds of Kenya



045 KENYA
International Telecommunications Union

Great Britain & Commonwealth

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Sheet stamps:

35/- diagram of the different wave forms of analogue and digital signals
90/- microwave towers
105/- ITU anniversary emblem
130/- communications satellite

LEBANON
(last listed in June 2014)

046 March 13, 2012
Mothers' Day 2012
Design: children's painting.
Printing: litho, Chemaly & Chemaly.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 20.
LE2000 sun shining on mother and two children in garden

047 April 3, 2012
60th anniversary of Lions International in Lebanon
Printing: litho, Chemaly & Chemaly.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 20.
LE750 Lions International emblem and commemorative inscriptions over silhouette of cedar tree

048 Sept 15, 2012
Visit of Pope Benedict XVI to Lebanon
Printing: litho, Chemaly & Chemaly.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 20.
LE1250 Pope Benedict XVI and President Michel Sulaiman of Lebanon, both waving

049 Nov 12, 2012
10th Beirut Marathon
Printing: litho, Chemaly & Chemaly.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 20.
LE750 10th Marathon logo

050 Nov 13, 2012
Christmas 2012
Printing: litho, Chemaly & Chemaly.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 20.
LE2000 Santa Claus with sack standing beside Christmas tree

051 Nov 21, 2012
Lebanese People Throughout The World
Printing: litho, Chemaly & Chemaly.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 20.
LE500 world map marked with concentrations of Lebanese people (appears to be Syria, Brisbane, Melbourne, Ghana, Guatemala, Mexico and Vancouver), statue of a man

052 Nov 21, 2012
The Lebanese Independent Nation. Adel Osseiran, 1905-1998
Printing: litho, Chemaly & Chemaly.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 20.
LE1000 portrait photograph of the Shia nationalist politician, and Lebanese flag
Note: a member of the government which voted to disown the French mandate (claim independence) in 1943, and a United Nations delegate in 1947

053 Dec 10, 2012
National Council for Scientific Research (CNRS)
Printing: litho, Chemali & Chemali.
Sheet stamp:
LE250 inscriptions, emblem and relief map of Lebanon and parts of Syria and Israel

054 Dec 13, 2012
President Michel Suleiman
Printing: litho, Chemali & Chemali.
Sheet stamp:
LE250 portrait photograph of the President (2008-2012) and carved friezes in Arabic and European styles

055 Dec 14, 2012
Ghassan Tueni, 1926-2012
Printing: litho, Chemali & Chemali.
Sheet stamp:
LE750 portrait of the writer, politician and ambassador to the United Nations

056 Dec 26, 2012
100th Birthday of Saïd Ali
Printing: litho, Chemali & Chemali.
Sheet stamp:
LE500 posterised portrait of the writer (actually born in 1911), hand on chin

057 March 20, 2013
Mothers' Day 2013
Printing: litho, Chemali & Chemali.
Sheet stamp:
LE2000 purple bird watching its chick fly

058 Nov 11, 2013
LibanPost, Serving Lebanon for 15 Years
Printing: litho, Chemali & Chemali.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 20.
LE3000 envelope, stylised cedar of Lebanon emblem in gold, '15'

059 Nov 19, 2013
Amin Maalouf
Printing: litho, Chemali & Chemali.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 20.
LE100 photograph of the writer, a member of the Academie Française, in front of bookshelf

060 Nov 27, 2013
70th anniversary of Lebanese Independence
Printing: litho, Chemali & Chemali.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 20.
LE1000 flag of Lebanon

061 Dec 16, 2013
Christmas 2013
Printing: litho, Chemali & Chemali.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 20.
LE1000 Santa Claus and two snowman assistants sitting in a golden star (hanging decoration)

062 April 15, 2014
Memorial to the Martyrs of the Armenian Genocide
Printing: litho, Chemali & Chemali.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 20.
LLE2000 statue in Bikfaya

063 April 29, 2014
Centenaries of the Faculties of Medicine, Law & Engineering at St Joseph University, Beirut
Printing: litho, Chemali & Chemali.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 20.
LE500 façade of old building of university

064 May 22, 2014
Prominent Lebanese Women
Designs: portrait photographs.
Printing: litho, Chemali & Chemali.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 20.
LE2000 Laure Moghaizel, 1929-1997, lawyer and women's rights activist
LE2000 Mounira Solh, 1911-2010, politician
LE2000 Alexandra Issa El-Khoury, d1997, President of the Lebanese Red Cross/ Red Crescent
LE2000 Anissa Najjar, b1913, journalist

065 June 2, 2014
50th anniversary of the Banque du Liban
Printing: litho, Chemali & Chemali.
Sheet stamp:
LE1750 three Lebanese banknotes
Note: central bank of Lebanon

066 June 17, 2014
Fathers' Day 2014
Printing: litho, Chemali & Chemali.
Sheet stamp:
LE1750 father and two children in grassland (cartoon graphic)

067 July 9, 2014
Postal Cooperation. EuroMed
Design: Amany Ahmed Ali (Egypt).
Printing: litho, Chemali & Chemali.
Sheet stamp:
LE1000 relief map of the Mediterranean, and EuroMed emblem
Note: part of first omnibus issue by member organisations of the EuroMed postal union

068 July 12, 2014
FIFA Football World Cup Finals, Brazil
Printing: litho, Chemali & Chemali.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 20.
LE1750 the tournament mascot, Fuleco
LE2000 the tournament emblem

069 Nov 5, 2014
Germanos Mouakkad, 1853-1912
Printing: litho, Chemali & Chemali.
Sheet stamp:
LE2250 Germanos Mouakkad, monk, theologist, priest and bishop of the Melkite Greek Catholic Archeparchy of Baalbek, founder of the Missionary Society of St Paul in Harissa in 1903

070 Nov 10, 2014
Writers & Philosophers
Printing: litho, Chemali & Chemali.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 20 (5 x 4).
LE1750 Kamal Youssef El-Hage, 1917-1976, philosopher and academic
LE1750 Ounsi El-Hage, 1937-2014, newspaper editor, writer, co-founder of poetry magazine *Shi'r*
LE1750 Joseph Harb, 1941-2014, poet, songwriter, screenplay writer

071 Nov 10, 2014
Youssef Bey Karam, 1823-1889
Printing: litho, Chemali & Chemali.
Sheet stamp:

046 LEBANON
Mothers' Day 2012

051 LEBANON
Lebanese People Throughout The World

053 LEBANON
National Council for Scientific Research

062 LEBANON
Memorial to Martyrs of the Armenian Genocide

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LE1750 portrait of the Lebanese Maronite who fought in the 1860 civil war and led a rebellion in 1866-1867 against the Ottoman Empire

LITHUANIA
(last listed in January 2016)

072 Aug 29, 2015
Day of Education & Knowledge
Design: Migle Malkeviciute (school pupil).
Printing: litho, Garsu Pasaulis.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 50 (10 x 5).
0.45€ painting of child with stack of books
Note: the start of the new school year was September 1

073 Sept 26, 2016
250th anniversary of the Birth of Michal Kleofas Oginski, 1765-1833
Design: D Vildžiunas.
Printing: litho, Garsu Pasaulis.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 50 (10 x 5).
0.81€ portrait painting of the Polish composer and diplomat by F K Fabre, and part of score of *Polonaise Pozegnanie Ojczyzny*, a piano piece

074 Oct 24, 2015
Information Technology
Design: L Parulskis.
Printing: litho, Garsu Pasaulis.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 50 (5 x 10).
0.84€ binary code and the country name and issue title (in roman text) intermingled

075 Nov 7, 2015
Traditional Crafts. Products from the Forge
Design: D Vildžiunas.
Printing: litho, Garsu Pasaulis.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 50 (10 x 5).
0.75€ door handle and base plate, door knocker and base plate, forge pincers

076 Nov 14, 2015
Christmas & New Year
Design: D Gribauske, in style of model.
Printing: litho, Garsu Pasaulis.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 25.
0.39€ house with mother and child, figures around tree in winter landscape
0.81€ winter landscape with figures around tree

MALTA
(last listed in Jan 2016)

077 Oct 24, 2015
70th anniversary of the United Nations Organisation
Design: Sean Cini.
Printing: litho, Printex.
Miniature sheet:
3.51€ 70th anniversary emblem, and flag of Malta
Border: flags of UN members forming '7' and '0'

078 Nov 14, 2015
Christmas 2015. Woodcut Prints by Albrecht Dürer
Design: MaltaPost, after prints held in Mdina Cathedral Museum.
Printing: litho, Printex.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 10.
0.26€ *The Flight into Egypt*
0.59€ *The Nativity of The Lord*
0.63€ *Adoration of the Magi*

079 Nov 27, 2015
Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), Malta, November 2015
Design: Sean Cini.
Miniature sheet:
3.00€ CHOGM emblem
Border: flags of Commonwealth members

080 Jan 22, 2016
Flora of Malta
Design: from photographs.
Printing: litho, Printex.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 10 (5 x 2).
0.26€ branched ashpodel, *Ashpodelus aestivus*
0.59€ common pyramidal orchid, *Anacamptis pyramidalis*
1.16€ Maltese spider orchid, *Ophrys melitensis*

MAURITIUS
(last listed in March 2015)

081 June 29, 2015
World Environment Day. Disaster Risk Reduction: Prevention of Flooding
Design: Mauritius Post, from photographs.
Printing: litho, BDT.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 50.
R17 river in spate, watercourse lined by stone wall

082 Aug 1, 2015
9th Games of the Islands of the Indian Ocean, Réunion, 2015
Printing: litho, BDT.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 50.
R17 Games logo

083 Sept 25, 2015
300th anniversary of the French Landings in Mauritius
Design: Frank Bonnet.
Printing: litho, PhilaPoste.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 25.
R17 French vessel *La Chasseur* flying the royal ensign off what became Port Louis, August 27, 1715, and compass rose over outline of Mauritius
Note: the French did not send settlers to what it called Île de France or Maurice until 1721. Joint issue with France

084 Nov 27, 2015
200th anniversary of the National Archive
Design: Mauritius Post.
Printing: litho.
Sheet stamp:
R10 interior of archive, shelves stacked with documents

MONTSERRAT
(last listed in Feb 2016)

085 Sept 15, 2015
Earth From Space
Design: from NASA photographs taken from the International Space Station. Each stamp carries two views, oblique and vertical.
Printing: litho, C&C Security Printers, China.
Sheetlet (2 x 2):
$3.25 wildfires in central Chile
$3.25 Kavir desert, Iran, showing layered rocks and water channels into lake
$3.25 central Saudi Arabia
$3.25 coastline at Cancun, Mexico
Miniature sheet:
$7 the island of Montserrat, one view showing the ash deposits from its volcanic eruptions

086 Sept 30, 2015
Bees
Printing: litho, C&C Security Printers, China.
Sheetlet (2 x 2):
$3.25 orange-belted bumblebee, *Bombus ternarius*
$3.25 american bumblebee, *Bombus pensylvanicus*
$3.25 eastern carpenter bee, *Xylocopa virginica*
$3.25 cuckoo bee, *Nomada luteola*
Miniature sheet:
$7 common eastern bumblebee, *Bombus impatiens*

087 Nov 11, 2015
Paintings. Self-Portraits
Printing: litho, Cardon Enterprise, Taiwan.
Sheetlet (2 x 2):
$3.25 Jan van Eyck (1433)
$3.25 Peter Paul Rubens (Flanders, 1623)
$3.25 William Hind (England, 1862-1863)
$3.25 George Daniel de Monfried (USA-France, 1905)
Border: Edouard Manet (France, 1878-1879)
Miniature sheet:
$7 Paul Gauguin (France, 1885)
Border: Paul Gauguin (different self-portrait)

088 Nov 30, 2015
Beetles
Printing: litho, Cardon Enterprise, Taiwan.
Sheetlet (2 x 2):
$3.25 goliath beetle, *Goliathus giganticus*
$3.25 eastern hercules beetle, *Dynastes tityus*
$3.25 stag beetle, *Luganus laminifer*
$3.25 acacia longhorn beetle, *Penthea pardalis*
Miniature sheet:
$7 atlas beetle, *Chalcosoma atlas*
Border: leaves with beetle-scarring

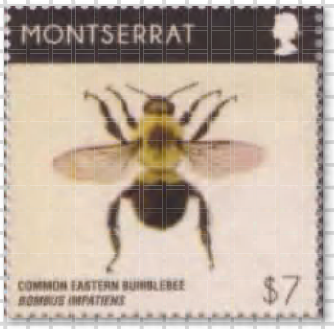
NAMIBIA
(last listed in Jan 2016)

089 July 6, 2015
The Baby Big Five Animals
Design: Helge Denker. Each design depicts the baby animal, and a part of its parent.
Printing: litho.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 10.
- (N$3.50) leopard, *Panthera pardus*; (inscribed 'Standard Mail')
N$5.70 African elephant, *Loxodonta africana*
N$6.50 black rhinoceros, *Diceros bicornis*
N$6.70 African buffalo, *Syncerus caffer*
- (N$35.50) lion, *Panthera leo* (inscribed 'Non-standard registered mail')

072 LITHUANIA
Day of Education & Knowledge

078 MALTA
Christmas 2015

081 MAURITIUS
Disaster Risk Reduction



086 MONTSERRAT
Bees

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090 Aug 19, 2015

Sharks

Design: Helge Denker.

Printing: litho.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 10.

- (N$3.00) broadnose sevengill shark, *Notorhynchus cepadianus* (inscribed 'Postcard Rate')
N$5.70 bronze whaler shark, *Carcharhinus brachyurus*
N$7.70 smooth hammerhead shark, *Sphyma zygaena*
N$6.60 great white shark, *Carcharodon carcharias*

091 Oct 1, 2015

Birds. Coursers of Namibia

Design: Helge Denker.

Printing: litho.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 10.

- (N$3.00) three-banded courser, *Rhinoptilus cinctus* (inscribed 'Postcard Rate')
- (N$6.10) double-headed courser, *Rhinoptilus africanus* (inscribed 'Zone B')
- (N$7.00) Burchell's courser, *Corsorius rufus* (inscribed 'Zone A')
- (N$8.20) double-headed courser, *Rhinoptilus africanus* (inscribed 'Zone B')
- bronze-winged courser, *Rhinoptilus chalcopterus* (inscribed 'Zone C')

092 Nov 20, 2015

No Wildlife Crime. Hong Kong 2015 Asian International Stamp Exhibition

Printing: litho. Non-denominated, inscribed 'Postcard Rate'.

Miniature sheet: three hexagonal-format stamps, se-tenant diagonally.

- (N$3.00) 'Rhinos forever': adult and junior rhinoceros
- (N$3.00) 'No wildlife crime': slogan on globe showing Africa and Asia
- (N$3.00) 'Elephants forever': male, female and juvenile elephants

Border: inscriptions noting the Exhibition (in English and Chinese), logo, maps of Asia and Africa

NEW ZEALAND

(last listed in Feb 2016)

093 Oct 23, 2015

Capital Stamp Show 2015, October 23-25, Wellington

Design: NZ Post (sheet) and Strategy Design & Advertising (stamps). The third, fourth and fifth designs are as The Spirit of ANZAC sheetlet of March 23, 2015, se-tenant.

Printing: litho, Southern Colour Print, Dunedin.

Miniature sheet (3 x 1):

80c ANZAC troops making first landing on Gallipoli peninsula, Ottoman Turkey, on April 25, 1915, at what became known as ANZAC Cove
$2.00 *The Sapper & His Donkey*, watercolour by Horace Moore-Jones: transporting wounded down the cliffs of Anzac Cove by donkey
$2.50 painting of hospital ship *Maheno*, leaving Wellington for Egypt and Gallipoli in July 1915
80c *Chunuk Bair*, painting by Ion Brown: summit in Gallipoli held by Wellington Battalion for just two days in August 1915, with a 90% casualty rate

Border: farewell parade for 6th Reinforcements, on Lambton Quay, Wellington, August 1915

094 Nov 4, 2015

Christmas 2015. New Zealand Stained Glass Windows

Design: Hannah Sutcliffe-White.

Printing: litho, Southern Colour Print. Perf 13.9 x 13.9 (gummed) or die-cut perf 9½ x 10 (self-adhesive). Stamp format 40mm x 30mm (gummed) or 29mm x 24mm (self-adhesive).

Gummed sheet stamps: sheets of 25.

80c angel in prayer, window from St Mark's Church, Carterton
$1.40 dove (Holy Spirit), window from St Aidan's Anglican Church, Remuera, Auckland
$2.00 Mary holding Jesus, window from St Mary's in Holy Trinity Cathedral, Parnell, Auckland
$2.50 pohutukawa flower head, window from Christchurch Hospital Nurses Memorial Chapel
$3.00 Three Wise Men, window from St Benedict's Church, Auckland

Self-adhesive strip: three stamps (3 x 1), separately spaced horizontally within plain white surround, plain reverse to backing paper.

80c angel in prayer, window from St Mark's Church, Carterton
$1.40 dove (Holy Spirit), window from St Aidan's Anglican Church, Remuera, Auckland
$2.00 Mary holding Jesus, window from St Mary's in Holy Trinity Cathedral, Parnell, Auckland
$2.50 pohutukawa flower, window from Christchurch Hospital Nurses Memorial Chapel

Self-adhesive coil stamp: boxed coils of 100; stamps separately spaced vertically, without surround, on plain backing paper.

80c angel in prayer, window from St Mark's Church, Carterton

Self-adhesive booklet: sold at $8.00.

80c x 10 angel in prayer, window from St Mark's Church, Carterton

Cover: stamp design, on red ground

Self-adhesive booklet: sold at $18.00.

$2.00 x 10 Mary holding Jesus, window from St Mary's in Holy Trinity Cathedral, Parnell, Auckland

Cover: stamp design, on blue ground, inscribed 'International $2.00 Buy 10 pay for 9'

Self-adhesive booklet: sold at $22.50.

$2.50 x 10 pohutukawa flower, window from Christchurch Hospital Nurses Memorial Chapel

Cover: stamp design, on blue ground, inscribed 'International $2.50 Buy 10 pay for 9'

Note: the self-adhesive strip was a philatelic product. The self-adhesive coil stamp was distributed philatelically in vertical 'pairs'. The retail price of the $18.00 and $22.00 booklets allow for one stamp free

095 Nov 4, 2015

Christmas 2015. Stained Glass Windows

Design: Hannah Sutcliffe-White.

Printing: litho, Southern Colour Print. Perf 13.9 x 13.9. Non-phosphor. Stamp format 40mm x 30mm. Stamps and border are transparent, to an extent depending on the depth of the colour printing.

Gummed miniature sheet: 5 separately spaced stamps printed on grey translucent paper.

80c angel in prayer, window from St Mark's Church, Carterton
$1.40 dove (Holy Spirit), window from St Aidan's Anglican Church, Remuera, Auckland
$2.00 Mary holding Jesus, window from St Mary's in Holy Trinity Cathedral, Parnell, Auckland
$2.50 pohutukawa flower head, window from Christchurch Hospital Nurses Memorial Chapel
$3.00 Three Wise Men, window from St Benedict's Church, Auckland

Note: this sheet is the only source of these designs in transparent form. The paper is officially identified as Gilclear 113gsm

Addendum: a sheetlet of 18 stamps, with designs as the Kiwi Kitchen issue of July 1, 2015, but imperforate and with printed cancellations, was included in the 2015 Year Book

096 Jan 13, 2016

Chinese New Year. Year of the Monkey

Design: Asiaworks, Auckland.

Printing: litho, Southern Colour Print.

Sheet stamps: sheets of 25 with illustrated gutters.

80c ancient pictographic Chinese character for monkey, in golden brown, over stylised clouds
$1.40 red monkey (leaping) over green sky, based upon a papercut
$2.00 monkey clinging to a silver fern frond
$2.50 landscape of Monkey Island, with sign and bar-tailed godwit (bird)

Miniature sheet (4 x 1):

80c, $1.40, $2.00, $2.50, designs as sheet stamps (se-tenant)

Border: chinese pictographic characters

Note: Monkey Island is off the southern tip of South Island. The bar-tailed godwit migrates annually from New Zealand to China

PAKISTAN

(last listed in Dec 2015)

097 Dec 8, 2014

International Anti-Corruption Day

Design: Adil Salahuddin.

Printing: litho, Pakistan Security Printing.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 16.

R8 slogan 'Say No To Corruption' and emblem of National Accountability Bureau

098 Dec 11, 2014

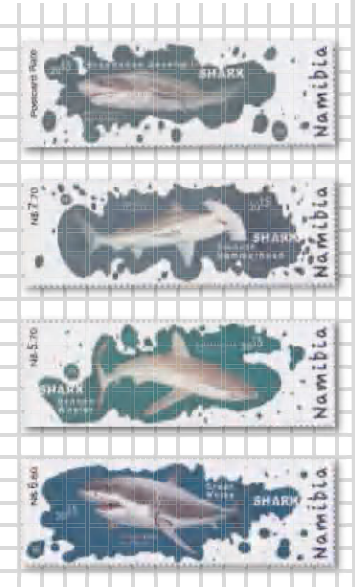
Gems & Minerals of Pakistan

Design: Adil Salahuddin. All designs depict an uncut mineral sample, and a cut and polished gemstone.

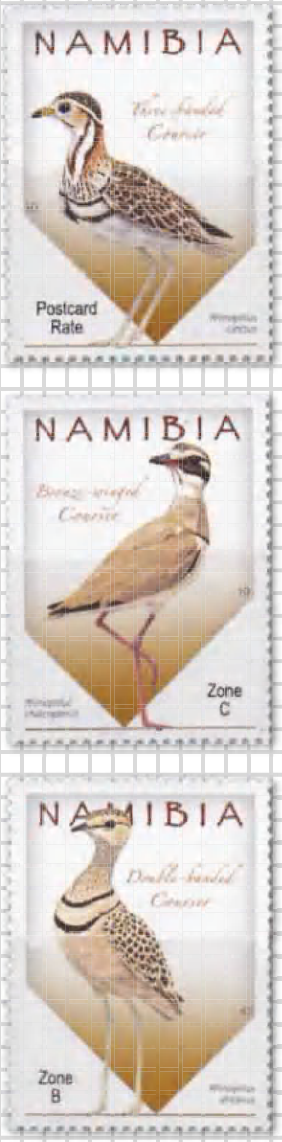
Printing: litho, Pakistan Security Printing.

Sheetlet: 16 stamps arranged in 2 se-tenant blocks of 8 (4 x 2).

R10 apatite
R10 aquamarine
R10 black tourmaline
R10 garnet
R10 epidote
R10 vesuvianite



090 NAMIBIA
Sharks



091 NAMIBIA
Coursers of Namibia

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R10 topaz
R10 sphene

099 Dec 23, 2014
14th National Scout Jamboree, Khairpur
Design: Adil Salahuddin.
Printing: litho, Pakistan Security Printing.
Sheet stamp:
R8 scout badge, dove of peace and palm trees (symbolical)

100 Dec 25, 2014
Monuments of Ancient Cultures. Museum Exhibits
Design: Adil Salahuddin.
Printing: litho, Pakistan Security Printing.
Sheet stamps: sheet of 12 (6 x 2) arranged in 6 horizontally se-tenant pairs.
R20 statue, carving and vase, from Trypillia, Ukraine; flag of Ukraine
R20 statue, vase and three clay tablets (showing a bullock), from Moenjodaro, Pakistan; flag of Pakistan
Miniature sheet (2 x 1 se-tenant): sold at R50.
R20 statue, carving and vase, from Trypillia, Ukraine; flag of Ukraine
R20 statue, vase and three clay tablets (showing a bullock), from Moenjodaro, Pakistan; flag of Pakistan
Border: carvings and pictograms from Trypilia, and view of Moenjodaro
Note: joint issue with Ukraine

101 Dec 31, 2014
Maulana Altaf Hussain Hali, 1837-1914
Design: Adil Salahuddin.
Printing: litho, Pakistan Security Printing.
Sheet stamp:
R8 portrait of the Urdu poet, and writings

102 March 24, 2015
Asian-Pacific Postal Union Executive Council Meeting, Islamabad, March 24-28, 2015
Design: Adil Salahuddin.
Printing: litho, Pakistan Security Printing,.
Sheet stamp:
R10 APPU Meeting logo, stylised birds, flags of 16 nations

103 May 4, 2015
Renewable Energy, 2nd issue. First 100mW Solar Power Plant in Pakistan
Design: Liaquat Ali.
Printing: litho, Pakistan Security Printing.
Sheet stamp:
R8 solar panel array

104 Aug 24, 2015
Year of Pakistan-China Friendship
Design: Kanwal Khalid. All designs are inscribed '2015. Year of Friendly Exchanges'.
Printing: litho.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 100 arranged in 20 horizontal se-tenant strips of 5.
R10 President Xi Jinping of China, and flag of China
R10 view of the Great Wall of China
R10 view along the Karakoram Highway, connecting Pakistan and China
R10 view of Shalimar Gardens, Lahore, Pakistan
R10 Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan, and flag of Pakistan

PERU
(last listed in May 2012)

Addendum: issue dates not previously reported were January 15, 2011, for the Lions International/ FOLAC issue, and June 9, 2011, for the Submarine Command Centenary issue

105 Jan 18, 2011
San Sebastián, Patron of the Province of Chepén
Printing: litho, Thomas Greg & Sons.
Sheet stamp:
2.00s gilded statue of the saint

106 Jan 31, 2011
José María Arguedas, 1911-1969
Design: Christian Alvarez.
Printing: litho, Thomas Greg & Sons.
Sheet stamp:
6.60s portrait of the writer and anthropologist, and book with mock page depicting a bull, a condor and a feather

107 May 16, 2011
Development of Peruvian Infrastructure
Design: Christian Alvarez, from aerial photographs.
Printing: litho, Thomas Greg & Sons.
Sheet stamps:
5.00s South Quay, port of Callao
5.20s South Inter-Oceanic Highway

108 May 25, 2011
Centenary of Scouting in Peru
Design: Christian Alvarez.
Printing: litho, Thomas Greg & Sons.
Sheet stamps:
6.40s boy scout with flag, and flag of Peru
6.40s girl scout with flag, and flag of Peru

109 June 7, 2011
50th anniversary of the Jiamarca Radio Telescope
Design: Nohella de la Cruz Diaz.
Printing: litho, Thomas Greg & Sons.
Sheet stamp:
6.60s 50th anniversary logo, and ground-array of radio telescope masts

110 June 8, 2011
Mario Vargas Llosa, Nobel Prize for Literature, 2010
Design: Christian Alvarez.
Printing: litho, Thomas Greg & Sons.
Sheet stamp:
7.80s King Carl VI Gustav of Sweden with Mario Vargas Llosa and Nobel medal at award ceremony

111 June 13, 2011
Javier Pulgar Vidal, 1911-2003
Design: Christian Alvarez.
Printing: litho, Thomas Greg & Sons.
Sheet stamp:
2.40s portrait of the geographer, and names of the six geographical regions of Peru as defined in his work

112 June 13, 2011
Prevention of AIDS
Design: Nohella de la Cruz Diaz. A frieze of microprinted text runs across both designs.
Printing: litho, Thomas Greg & Sons.
Sheet stamps: arranged in se-tenant composite pairs.
5.50s slogan, male figure and half of red AIDS ribbon
5.50s slogan, female figure and half of red AIDS ribbon

113 June 20, 2011
Bicentenary of the First Call for Independence of Peru, 1811
Design: Nohella de la Cruz Diaz.
Printing: litho, Thomas Greg & Sons.
Sheet stamps: arranged in se-tenant composite pairs.
7.20s portrait painting of Francisco Antonió de Zela y Arizaga, 1786-1821, advocate of separation from Spain
7.20s statue of Arizaga

114 June 23, 2011
50th anniversary of the National University of the Peruvian Amazon (UNAP)
Design: Christian Alvarez.
Printing: litho, Thomas Greg & Sons.
Sheet stamp:
2.70s UNAP 50th anniversary logo, and view of the campus in Iquitos

115 June 23, 2011
Great National Theatre of Peru
Design: Christian Alvarez.
Printing: litho, Thomas Greg & Sons.
Sheet stamp:
5.00s external view of theatre

116 June 24, 2011
Ceramics from Pre-Columbian Cultures of Peru
Design: Nohella de la Cruz Diaz.
Printing: litho, Thomas Greg & Sons.
Sheet stamps:
6.40s three Inca pots (15th century or early 16th century), and sketch map of Inca domains
6.40s three Chachapoya ceramics, and sketch map of Chachapoya domains in Andean cloud-forest

117 July 1, 2011
Spanish Viceroys of Peru
Design: Christian Alvarez, from portrait paintings.
Printing: litho, Thomas Greg & Sons.
Sheet stamps: arranged in se-tenant composite blocks of 4.
7.80s José Antonio de Mendoza Caamaño y Sotomayor, 1667-1746
7.80s José Antonio Manso de Velasco, 1688-1767
7.80s Manuel de Arnat y Junient, 1704-1782
7.80s Manuel de Guírior, 1708-1788

118 July 5, 2011
Chinese Lunar New Year. Year of the Rabbit
Design: Christian Alvarez.
Printing: litho, Thomas Greg & Sons.
Sheet stamps: arranged in se-tenant composite pairs.
5.50s white rabbit leaping across shield showing creatures of lunar cycle, and '2011'
5.50s Chinese character over shield showing

092 NAMIBIA
No Wildlife Crime

098 PAKISTAN
Gems & Minerals

107 PERU
Development of Infrastructure

121 PERU
Traditional Dances

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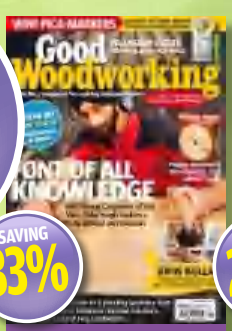

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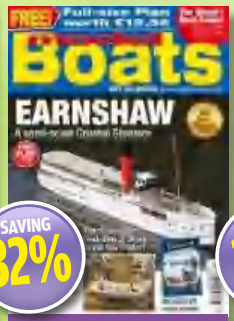

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creatures of lunar cycle, and '2011'
Note: the '2011' inscriptions have rabbit ears on the '0' and carrots as the '1' figures

119 July 5, 2011
Extreme Sports. Motocross
Design: after photograph.
Printing: litho, Thomas Greg & Sons.
Sheet stamp:
7.80s motorcycle rider

120 July 5, 2011
Centenary of the Discovery of Machú Picchu
Design: from photograph.
Printing: litho and metallic foil, Thomas Greg & Sons.
Miniature sheet: design composite with border.
7.80s panoramic view of Machú Picchu, 15th-century Inca site in the Andes

121 July 5, 2011
Traditional Dances
Design: Nohella de la Cruz Diaz, from photographs.
Printing: litho, Thomas Greg & Sons.
Sheet stamps:
9.00s huaconada, ritual dance of the Mito region
9.00s danza de las tijeras (scissor dance) from Ayacucho region

ROSS DEPENDENCY
(last listed in March 2015)

122 Nov 4, 2015
The Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition, 1914-1917
Design: Jonathan Gray, from expedition photographs.
Printing: litho, Southern Colour Print, Dunedin.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 25.
80c SY *Endurance* trapped by pack ice in the Weddell Sea
80c Ocean Camp: 28 expeditionaries and crew of *Endurance* camped on an ice floe after abandoning *Endurance*
$1.40 boarding the ship's lifeboat *James Caird* to move from Ocean Camp ice floe to Elephant Island
$2.00 SY *Aurora*, which carried the other component of the Expedition, the Ross Sea Party
$2.50 Ross Sea Party members laying store depots for proposed Antarctic crossing party
$3.00 the Ross Sea Party, after their rescue, having been stranded when *Aurora* broke free from her moorings
Miniature sheet (3 x 1):
80c, 80c, $1.40, designs as sheet stamps
Border: map of route of *Endurance*
Miniature sheet (3.x 1):
$2.00, $2.50, $3.00, designs as sheet stamps
Border: map of route of *Aurora*
Note: *Endurance* was captained by New Zealander Frank Worsley

ST HELENA
(last listed in Sept 2015)

123 May 21, 2015
Paintings of Main Street, Jamestown
Printing: litho, BDT.
Sheet stamps: arranged in se-tenant strips of 4 with composite design.
50p blue-painted house with iron balcony
40p houses alongside Main Street, seen from behind with stone wall and trees
80p blue-painted house with dormer windows in tin roof
60p facades of five adjacent houses, mountainside behind
Note: this issue was not available from philatelic outlets until January 2016

124 Nov 21, 2015
Christmas 2015. Santa Claus
Printing: litho.
Sheet stamps:
25p Santa Claus riding in his sleigh, under a full moon
40p Santa Claus in snow, outside a warmly lit house
50p Santa Claus with sack, beside Christmas tree
60p Santa Claus on a rooftop, under a crescent moon
£1 Santa Claus and a plum pudding

125 Jan 1, 2016
St Helena Airport Project, 2nd issue
Design: Andrew Robinson, from photographs.All designs incorporate a silhouette of a jet aircraft.
Printing: litho.
Sheet stamps:
25p students burying a time capsule
40p the final rock blast
50p newly constructed wharf, Ruperts
60p control tower construction
Miniature sheet:
£2 aerial view of the completed runway

SPAIN
(last listed in March 2016)

126 Sept 18, 2014
National Cultural Heritage, 7th issue. Tapestries
Printing: gravure, State Mint.
Miniature sheet: design composite with border.
3.15 *The Death of Queen Dido*, from the workshop of Markus de Vos, Brussels (Spanish Netherlands), c1660
Note: now in the Royal Palace, Madrid

127 Sept 25, 2014
Commemorating Pope John Paul II
Printing: litho, State Mint.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 25.
0.92€ portrait of the Karol Wojtyla, 1920-2005, in papal robes, and coat of arms

128 Oct 1, 2014
King Alfonso IX Summons the Three Estates to the Curia Regia, León, 1188
Printing: litho, State Mint.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 25.
0.76€ coat of arms of León (red lion) and King Alfonso, Basilica of San Isidoro (site of the meeting), modern Parliamentary seating
Note: the meeting of the Estates gave rise to a series of decrees setting out the rights of the people of León in affairs of state. The collection of documents has been recognised as World Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO

129 Oct 1, 2014
Ancient Cultures, 1st issue. The Talayotic Settlements of Menorca
Printing: litho, with ground limestone embedded, State Mint.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 25.
0.92€ the prehistoric Taula of Torretrencada in the Talayotic settlement of the same name
Note: huge upright stone with a horizontally-laid capstone, forming a 'T', purpose unknown

130 Oct 9, 2014
UPAEP. Heroes & Leaders
Printing: litho, State Mint.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 25.
0.92€ pixel-map of the Americas, four busts (of deliberately anonymous individuals), UPAEP emblem

131 Oct 9, 2014
Graphic Cartoon Humour. The Work of Forges
Printing: litho, State Mint.
Miniature sheet (3 x 3): 1 stamp and 8 labels.
3.15€ cartoon of wife telling the time to husband, who is still in bed
Labels: other Forges cartoons, two alluding to postal services (man wishing to send a piano by post, being referred to window 57 by the clerk)
Note: Antonio Fraguas de Pablo (pen name Forges), b1942, newspaper journalist, author of comic strip books and novels, television and film director

132 Oct 12, 2014
Accession of King Felipe IV
Printing: litho, State Mint.
Miniature sheet:
1€ portrait of King Felipe VI (b1968)
1€ portrait of King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia (b1972)
Border: royal coat of arms, and Spanish flag
Note: proclaimed King on June 19, 2014, after the abdication of King Juan Carlos I

133 Oct 17, 2014
Civil Infrastructure. Madrid-Irún Railway
Printing: litho, State Mint.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 25.
0.76€ high speed train (recent image) and railway station (archive image)

134 Oct 20, 2014
Protected Fauna
Design: from photographs.
Printing: gravure, State Mint.
Sheetlet: 16 stamps.
0.54€ x 4 owl, *Bubo bubo*
0.54€ x 4 Eurasian otter, *Lutra lutra*
0.92€ x 4 imperial eagle, *Aquila heliaca*
0.92€ x 4 great bustard, *Otis tarda*
Note: the left side of the owl stamps and the right side of the bustard stamps are free-form

135 Nov 4, 2014
Historic Banknote & Coin
Printing: litho (banknote), or litho with metallic foil and embossed (coin), State Mint.
Sheetlet: 16 stamps arranged in 8 se-tenant pairs.
2€ x 8 1-peseta banknote of 1953 (reverse) depicting a sail warship
2€ x 8 1-peseta coin of 1944 (obverse)
Note: the coin stamp is circular, set within a rectangular perforated label. Both stamps have a

123 ST HELENA
Paintings of Main Street

125 ST HELENA
Airport Project

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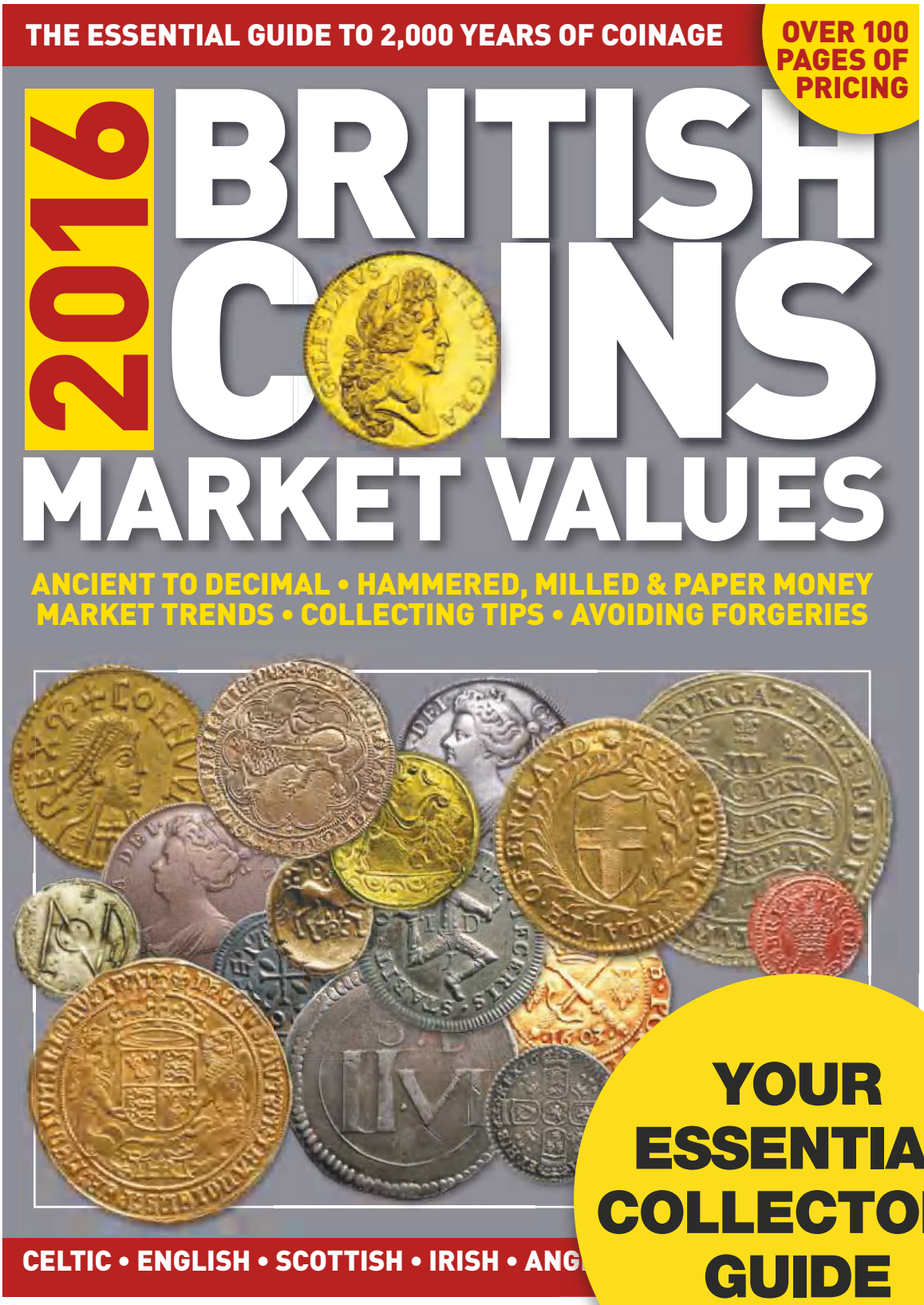

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logo to connect to a smartphone app (video about the State Mint's production of coins and notes)

136 Nov 7, 2014
Civic Values. Promotion of Literacy & Publication of Reading Matter for the Young
Printing: litho and embossed, with additional metallic foil on the donkey, State Mint.
Miniature sheet:
3.15€ Platero, the little donkey, principal character of a children's story by Juan Ramón Jiménez, 1881-1958, first published in 1914
Border: portrait painting of Jiménez, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1956

137 Nov 11, 2014
Christmas 2014, 1st issue. Stained Glass Window
Printing: litho with lacquer (varnish) layer, State Mint. Die-cut perf 13¼ x 14. Non-denominated.
Self-adhesive sheet stamp: sheets of 40.
A (0.38€) The Birth of Christ: window showing The Holy Family, and 'Merry Christmas' in the four official languages of Spain

138 Nov 11, 2014
Christmas 2014, 2nd issue. Decorations
Printing: litho, with thermal ink on decorations and star, State Mint. Die-cut perf 13¼ x 14.
Self-adhesive sheetlet: 6 stamps arranged in 3 rows (1,2,3) to simulate the shape of a Christmas tree. Design composite with border.
B (0.76€) x 6 decorations (bell, baubles,star) affixed to Christmas tree
Note: the 1st, 2nd, 4th and 6th stamps are arranged sideways to left, the 3rd and 5th stamps sideways to right

139 Jan 2, 2015
Definitives. Fortified Gateways & Triumphal Arches
Printing: litho, State Mint. Die-cut perf 13¼ x 13.
Self-adhesive booklet (3.36€): 8 stamps affixed in two 'blocks' of 4 to inside covers.
A (0.42€) x 2 Puerta de la Luna, Córdoba
A (0.42€) x 2 Puerta de la Cadena, Brihuega, Guadalajara
A (0.42€) x 2 Puerta de Santa Maria, Hondarribia, Gipuzkoa
A (0.42€) x 2 Puerta de Sant Pere, Peñiscola, Castellón

140 Jan 2, 2015
Tourism Promotion
Design: Turespaña.
Printing: litho, State Mint, with punching on 1€. Die-cut perf 13.
Self-adhesive sheet stamps: sheets of 50.
0.90€ strings of guitar, beach parasol, football, bowl of stew
1€ logo of the World Travel & Tourism Council, ceiling fresco, clockface, top of a statue, cup of coffee
Note: WTTC Global Summit held in Madrid, April 15-16, 2015

WALLIS & FUTUNA
(last listed in March 2016)

141 Feb 20, 2013
Bats
Design: Pierre Chary.
Printing: litho, PhilaPoste, France.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 10 (2 x 5).
55f Pacific flying fox, *Pteropus tonganus*

142 March 5, 2013
Hervé Loste, 1926-1994
Design: Jean-Paul Veret-Lemarinier.
Printing: litho, PhilaPoste, France.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 25.
800f portrait of the politician, first member of the French National Assembly for Wallis & Futuna

143 March 10, 2013
20th anniversary of the Wallis & Futuna State High School, Mata Uta
Design: J Hooreltbeki.
Printing: litho, PhilaPoste, France.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 10 (2 x 5).
65f island maps (with districts named and marked), and view of school

144 April 5, 2013
50th anniversary of the Court of Mata-Utu
Design: Jean-Richard Lisiak.
Printing: litho, PhilaPoste, France.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 10 (2 x 5).
190f Court in session, and scales of justice over map of the Uvea chiefdom

145 May 19, 2013
400th anniversary of the Discovery of Horn Island
Printing: litho, PhilaPoste.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 10 (5 x 2).
330f schematic view of Horn Island with European ships and Polynesian/ Tongan war canoes offshore
Note: Horn is now known as Futuna

146 June 14, 2013
Traditional Folk Culture
Design: R Kulimoetoke.
Printing: litho, PhilaPoste.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 10 (2 x 5).
105f storyteller with listeners
140f dancers

147 July 3, 2013
Petelo Sanele Vakalima
Design: F Angleviel.
Printing: litho, PhilaPoste.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 10 (2 x 5).
75f the athlete throwing a javelin

148 Aug 10, 2013
Sister Marie du Mont Carmel, Marist Missionary
Design: F Angleviel.
Engraving: Yves Beaujard.
Printing: recess, PhilaPoste, France.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 10 (5 x 2).
400f Sister Marie (Marie Françoise Perroton, 1796-1873), from Lyon, France, one of the four founders of the Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary, and religious building

149 Sept 2, 2013
Pacific Mini-Games, Mata-Utu, Wallis & Futuna, September 2-12, 2013
Design: cartoon mascots.
Printing: litho, with lacquer (varnish) layer, PhilaPoste. Die-cut perf 11.
Self-adhesive booklet (680f): 8 stamps affixed 4/4 to inside covers.
85f mascot serving at volleyball, and island map
85f mascot making diving recovery at volleyball
85f mascot running with rugby ball, and island map
85f mascot performing high kick
85f mascot sailing, and island map
85f mascot weightlifting, and island map
85f mascot in outrigger canoe, and island map
85f mascot throwing javelin

150 Sept 18, 2013
40th anniversary of the Death of Bishop Alexandre Poncet
Design: after print by F Jaupitre.
Engraving: Pierre Bara.
Printing: litho, PhilaPoste.
Sheet stamp:
150f Monsignor Poncet, 1884-1973, and congregation outside Cathedral of Mata-Utu

151 Oct 25, 2013
Views of Wallis in the Midday Sun
Design: P Hakomani.
Printing: litho, PhilaPoste.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 10 (2 x 5).
55f seascape, and fisherman with net
65f beach scene

152 Nov 5, 2013
Flowers
Design: P Bonfils (photographs).
Printing: litho, PhilaPoste.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 10 (5 x 2).
165f hyacinth, *Hyacinthus sp* (purple)
165f jasmine, *Plumera sp* (blue)

153 Dec 23, 2013
Christmas 2013
Design: Jean-Richard Lisiak.
Printing: litho, PhilaPoste.
Sheetlet (4 x 3): 2 blocks of 6 stamps and enlarged gutter label.
175f the Holy Family

154 Jan 24, 2014
Introduction of New Banknotes
Design: IEOM, Paris, after Kulimoetoke.
Printing: litho and screen-printed, PhilaPoste.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 10 (2 x 5).
50f 500 Pacific franc note, with plant motif
90f 1000 Pacific franc note, with ray and turtle motif
115f 5000 Pacific franc note, with shell, angelfish and coral motifs
800f 10000 Pacific franc note, with war clubs and traditional houses motifs

155 Feb 18, 2014
Endemic Flora
Design: Service de L'Environnement.
Printing: litho, PhilaPoste.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 10 (5 x 2).
95 *Cyrtandra futunae* growing on beach (artwork)
Note: the plant is exclusive to Wallis & Futuna

129 SPAIN
Talayotic Settlements of Menorca

135 SPAIN
Historic Banknote & Coin

137 SPAIN
Christmas 2014

150 WALLIS & FUTUNA
Bishop Alexandre Poncet

014 STAMP-ON-STAMP
150th anniversary of Postage Stamps, Bermuda

080 ORCHIDS
Flora of Malta, Malta

A HANDY CROSS-REFERENCE TO ACCOMPANY THIS MONTH'S NEW ISSUE GUIDE

The most popular collecting themes are listed in alphabetical order, with the reference numbers of all the relevant entries in this month's New Issue Guide, guiding you quickly to the new stamps which most interest you. Personalities are given a separate listing for your convenience. A single stamp issue will often be cross-referenced under more than one category.

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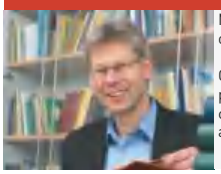

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Dear Colleague,

One of the problems of producing a catalogue is that without prices most people will not be interested in buying the catalogue! Even today we refer to 50 year old reference books such as Robson Lowe (Publisher: Billig) – a world famous philatelist and dealer/auctioneer whose name you will find on many expert committee certificates.

You would think that the prices / information in these 50 year old catalogues would be useless but how wrong you would be. Such specialist catalogues are full of information that collectors who purchase SG catalogues today would find fascinating – such as premiums for multiples (always useful) and proofs, essays, forgeries and the like – surely an opportunity there for SG? Quantities printed / issued for example would shed so much light on catalogue values (Michel often includes this).

Prices from 50 year old Robson Lowe catalogues are easily related to catalogue values / prices today. Occasionally even now we come across unpriced specialist catalogues – they may be fine for purists but my experience of collectors is that part of the attraction to stamps is their relative rarity value. We all seek a 'find' and many who search diligently will make them ... but in practice so many collectors say to me "what is your best find?" ... and generally how disappointing the answer is. Full time 'philatelic professionals' do not have the time to turn each stamp and check for watermark / specialist varieties – anybody who collects / handles stamps knows how stamps 'suck' time and what a wonderful therapeutic hobby philately is for those who are incapacitated ...

But to return to the subject of catalogues requiring prices one must then examine the relationship of the catalogue producer to the actual market place. So often this is overlooked ... yet one only has to look at a Stanley Gibbons catalogue to see the 'caveat' that their minimum catalogue price does not necessarily reflect value – rather it is the price that the only(?) public listed Stamp Company on any stock exchange worldwide – in stamp terms a large company – is prepared to sell that stamp for. If your company has a market value of £160 million pounds and a yearly turnover of £70 million then you can not sell 1p stamps for 1p – you are forced to have a minimum catalogue price .... BECAUSE what many people do not realise is that Stanley Gibbons catalogue price is actually the price that they will supply/sell that stamp in high quality to you. In practise I believe their Strand shop has long had a minimum selling price per stamp/set of £1 regardless of the stamp's market value.

So, it follows that if you have dozens of the same stamp and then thousands of different stamps in varying quantity – all catalogued by Stanley Gibbons at say an average of 50p each ... making a theoretical total catalogue value of £10,000 .... you may have 20,000 assorted stamps but your stamp holding may literally be worth as little as £50 or £2.50 per 1,000 stamps !

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Now, let's turn our attention to the status of other catalogue publishers. It follows that if you see a recent stamp catalogue with minimum catalogue values of literally a few pence/cents for the most common stamps then this is likely to be a more independent catalogue publisher pricing stamps by scarcity rather than by a minimum commercial price at which one could theoretically (but not really in practice) handle the sale of such a stamp. Such catalogue producers are unlikely to be able to supply such stamps to you at these prices or indeed may not sell stamps at all .... but typically low unit prices are what you may expect to pay for common stamps when purchased in mixtures.

The conclusion to draw is that 'catalogue value' depends upon the commercial status of the catalogue publisher and price for cheaper stamps may be totally unrelated to catalogue value.

Happy collecting from us all,

PS. If you find this 'tip' interesting please forward it to a philatelic friend.

Andrew McGavin

Managing Director: Universal Philatelic Auctions, Omniphil & Avon Approvals, Avon Mixtures, Universal Philatelic (Ebay)

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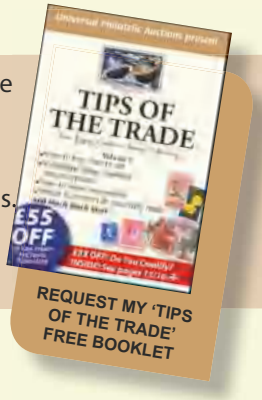

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Washday blues

Victorian fraudsters found a clever way of faking the blued paper used for Great Britain's 1883-83 high value stamps. They added stamps to their laundry

Report by John Winchester

Collectors of the Victorian stamps of Great Britain will be familiar with blue-tinged or *bleuté* paper.

In the 1840s the printer Perkins Bacon created it by accident, when the potassium ferrocyanide mordant added to printing ink reacted with iron salts in the paper. In the 1860s the paper supplier R D Turner & Co began to manufacture it deliberately for fiscal stamps, as it would leave tell-tale marks should anyone attempt to remove a cancellation.

When the new series of high-value postage stamps with values of 2s 6d, 5s and 10s were issued in 1883-84, they too were initially printed on Turner's blued paper, until a white equivalent became available. Stamps from this short 'blue period' were scarce, and their catalogue values began to climb in the 1890s, opening the door to fraudulent attempts to artificially 'blue' stamps printed on white paper.

Initially the forgers would simply soak the more common stamps in diluted ink, but this crude method was later replaced by a more realistic effect, discovered in the laundry.

The firm of Reckitt's offered a product called Bag Blue, which comprised small muslin bags containing an ounce of 'smalt' (a form of ground glass containing cobalt), designed to impart a brightening blue-white colour to the weekly whites wash. At 1d each, these became a smart investment for a would-be forger, because they also gave white paper a soft blue tone.

ABOVE: Specimen copy of the 1883-84 10s ultramarine on blued paper

ABOVE: Reckitt's Bag Blue brightener, unwittingly the forger's friend

Mint stamps would loose their gum in the wash, of course, but used stamps with a postmark dated before 1887 were treated in large numbers. There was more than a touch of irony to the manufacturer's slogan 'Buy Reckitt's Blue, and beware of imitations'! ■

NEXT MONTH

Powder keg?

On the 150th anniversary of the first issue of Serbia, we investigate how stamps reflected its reputation as Europe's trouble spot

PLUS

- How the 'p' for 'pence' disappeared from British commemoratives
- Postal history of Norway in World War II
- Dominica's 1923 series
- GB stamps on the theme of science

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Don't think we can pay you up to 36% more?

Philately Understood

COLLECTORS ARE RIGHT TO BE WARY OF LOFTY CLAIMS BUT THERE MAY BE GOOD REASONS WHY YOU MAY FIND SOME OF THEM TO BE TRUE

The stamp market constantly fluctuates so that at any given moment **if there is too much of what you wish to sell on the market,** despite what anybody claims, no dealer can offer you **massively** more.

However, there may be good reasons why some stamp organisations can offer you significantly more and pay you immediately rather than waiting months for the unknown of what you may or may not sell at auction – and you will be waiting even longer for payment.

It all depends upon that stamp dealer's/ auction's business model. UPA buys and sells globally but if for example the nearest stamp dealer you approach only sells British stamps to a small market place then there is a strong possibility that he/ she may be fully stocked already – so that if a price is proffered to you there is an increased likelihood of your receiving a lower offer as your collection, or part of your collection may be 'traded on' to a larger dealer. Worse still, other unrelated areas of your collection may be neglected or not valued in any offer you receive.

If you consign your collection to auction and it is unsuitable or too time-consuming for that auction to 'break' it into smaller lots – then there is a very strong probability that you will be paying an auction to sell your stamps to a stamp dealer WHO could afford to pay you up to 36% more than you will receive. Don't forget most auctions charge the buyer of your collection up to twice the commission, or more, that they charge you.

It doesn't make sense for you to pay an auction to sell your stamps to a stamp dealer, when – if you handle the transaction wisely – you can receive the up to 36% more for yourself.

What happens when you ask UPA to make you an offer?

First we ask you to tell us about your collection *and we listen*. Then we ask you how much you know about the market for your type of collection? At this stage we add to your knowledge, informing you of current conditions you may be unaware of. Then we discuss whether we may be well placed to assist you and how that may be achieved.

Providing your collection has sufficient potential we may offer to visit without charge or obligation, or we will offer to uplift your collection from your home at our expense, insured in transit (and whilst in our care) free of charge. If you are situated in mainland UK and your collection is too bulky for you to pack, provided your collection is valuable enough, we may even provide a free packing service in addition to shipping to our office.

Now we assess your collection and offer you the choice of agreeing a price that will be paid immediately – or of our bidding against other dealers so that you know you are achieving the best possible price.

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I've dealt with the public for 37 + years, and as both a consumer, and a businessman, I have created huge numbers of orders from all over the world from a complete range of suppliers from all aspects of our daily lives.

But I don't believe I have ever encountered such sensitivity, such kind thought, such understanding as I have with you in our initial meeting, our subsequent successful transaction, and now this.

I recall well the item you highlight, and realise that this one item has such colossal personal value, I could never part with it.

It has been an absolute pleasure dealing with yourself, and I am more than willing for you to use this e-mail as commendation to others who may be thinking of disposing of their collection.

Many, many thanks for a memorable experience, and I will try to emulate your thought and care in my own business sphere

Yours sincerely

D. E. B. Bath, UK

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Why can UPA often pay considerably more?

We often buy at auction. That auction takes the **"up to 36% more" that we pay that YOU DO NOT RECEIVE.**

However – there is another equally important reason .... namely **The UPA Business Model.** Unlike most dealers we believe that if an item is not selling, then it must be too expensive. This is the reason why when you receive our quarterly catalogues of up to **26,510** different lots (you can request a sample one free) ... you will find that if an item has been previously unsold **we actually tell you.** Furthermore each time an item is unsold we reduce the price and **we keep on reducing the price – until finally the lot sells** or it is given away. In practice good material sells quickly whilst other material finally finds its own price and sells. This is the reason why there are always 1,000's of new offers at UPA .... and part of the reason why we are usually in a position to pay you more and pay you immediately.

Furthermore, unlike some, UPA has not one but **4 different selling systems** selling 95% of stamps to collectors, so that when a collection is purchased the most valuable/ interesting stamps go into our Universal Philatelic Auctions (a NEW UPA UK record 2,031 different bidders in the last auction). Intermediate/lower-priced sets/singles enter our Omniphil and Avon Approvals systems (established 56 years and over 1,250 regular collector clients), inexpensive stamps enter the Avon Mixtures system and eBay (universalphilatelic) for surplus material. All of which is why UPA can purchase and pay for almost literally anything....

WHAT DOES UPA BUY?

UPA literally purchases almost any country collection worth £250 upwards from sets and singles to classics and entire British, British Empire, Europe and World collections. At the moment UPA has **exceptional demand for original collections and GB & British Empire** in particular.

What do I do next?

You contact UPA and talk to one of our friendly Team who will help to inform you so that you can decide how to progress matters .... there is no charge and no obligation .... **please CONTACT UPA NOW.**

Remember, if you are selling a collection .... collectors buy the stamps they are missing; this is why dealers exist. Most intact collections offered at auction sell to dealers. **Save commissions and uncertainty by contacting UPA today.** We guarantee that you will never be under pressure at any stage of the process, you will always be in control. **CONTACT our friendly UPA Team NOW: 01451 861 111**

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Andrew with Alan on the ITV Alan Titchmarsh Show Promoting Philately

Some say that Tony Blair only did one good thing, but I maintain he did at least one good other. Now I've got nothing against the next man smoking a cigarette on his own, after all we are fortunate to live in a democracy – but I can remember, as the sun was going down, quietly sitting one evening in a country pub, eating my meal at a long table as there was no other available… when, (you've guessed) two couples sat down opposite and alongside and without a word immediately all four struck-up… whilst I was eating

Muttering dark thoughts under my breath - I have never seen a smoker smoking and eating simultaneously, have you? …so it didn't seem reasonable for them to smoke whilst I was finishing my meal. Besides which I had showered and dressed in fresh clothes which now smelt like…

…but of course, that was the way things had always been done in public houses and eating places since Sir Walter Raleigh introduced us to Virginia Tobacco in 1578 – but just because things had always been done that way in public hostelries for 400+ years didn't mean that it was right. And it was under Tony Blair that smokers were legally separated from non-smokers, and when I first heard about it I expected an outcry… but there wasn't one really was there?

Likewise 'buyer's premiums' at most stamp auctions have been the norm for most of the past 50 years which doesn't make them right, and auctions seem to have operated successfully without buyer's premiums for the previous 300 years …and so long as you factor in paying up to 27%+/-more than the stamps are sold for… then there's an argument that they've cost you no more… **But in fifteen years since year 2000**

I've only met one collector yet that doesn't object to 'buyer's premiums'

Isn't it strange that so many stamp auctions operate in this way? I can't think of many industries where you pay up to 27%+/- more for the privilege of buying something – that is unless you consider VAT, but that's a Government Tax…

Personally I can't understand why things have to be done this way**… but fortunately there's a solution, there are still major auctions successfully defying buyer's premiums, and naturally I would like to introduce you to the largest of them** – my auction company Universal Philatelic Auctions otherwise known as **UPA**. **UPA holds the United Kingdom Philatelic Auction record of 2,128 different bidder participants in one stamp auction – to place this in perspective that's up to 1,500 more different bidders than frequent most UK auction houses…**

Therefore, if you are a new collector to **UPA**, **I'd like to invite you to test** my next 26,510 lot £1,897,029 auction closing on the 12th April 2016, ***and in return I'll give you your 1st GBP£55 auction winnings absolutely FREE… so that you can see*** why 2,128 different collectors and some dealers bid in our last auction, **90%+/- successful** with absolutely **NO BUYER'S PREMIUM** and crucially **ALL LOTS GUARANTEED**

Join me now, request your FREE 26,510 lot auction catalogue… telephone **UPA** on: 01451 861111 or view/request on-line at *www.upastampauctions.co.uk* **… Oh – and if you're curious about the other good thing Tony Blair did**, he said in context of today's commercial environment, **"Innovate or Die"** - it's something I steadfastly believe in, creating ***unique*** Philatelic auctions that **really** benefit collectors, but then somebody else may have said it first before Blair... and **You Can Find** Your Secret Weapon at **UPA**. – Request Your Free (Secret Weapon) Catalogue PLUS 1st £55 Winnings FREE TODAY

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